

**BEFORE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF INDIANA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

RULE AMENDMENTS GOVERNING BLACK BASS) Administrative Cause Number 10-154D (LSA Document # 11-358(F))
---	---

**REPORT ON RULE PROCESSING, CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS,
ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FINAL ADOPTION**

1. RULE PROCESSING

For consideration is a proposal to amend 312 IAC 9-7-6 governing the taking of black bass, from rivers and streams.¹ The rule amendment proposal would establish a size restriction whereby only black bass less than 12 inches long or greater than 15 inches long can be taken. The proposal would also specify that only two black bass greater than 15 inches in length could be included in the existing five black bass aggregate bag limit. This rule proposal would apply statewide the size and bag restrictions that presently exist only on the Blue River in Crawford, Harrison and Washington Counties.

The Natural Resources Commission (*NRC*) granted preliminary adoption of this rule amendment proposal on January 11, 2011.

The “Notice of Intent” to adopt the proposed rule amendment was posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website as 20110615-IR-312110358NIA on June 15, 2011. The notice identified Linnea Petercheff, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, as the “small business regulatory coordinator” for purposes of Indiana Code § 4-22-2-28.1.

As specified by Executive Order, fiscal analyses of the rule proposal were submitted, along with a copy of the proposed rule language and a copy of the posted Notice of Intent, to the Office of Management and Budget on June 21, 2011. In a letter dated August 18, 2011, Adam. M. Horst, Director, Office of Management and Budget, recommended that the proposed rule amendments be approved.

¹ The term “black bass” is defined to include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and spotted bass. 312 IAC 9-6-1(7)

Because the Department estimated that there would be no costs or requirements imposed upon small businesses, the Economic Impact Statement it was not necessary to submit the rule proposal and fiscal analyses to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for review.

The NRC Division of Hearings submitted the rule proposal to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) along with the “Statement Concerning Rules Affecting Small Business” (also known as the “Economic Impact Statement”) on August 31, 2011. The Notice of Public Hearing was submitted to LSA on August 31, 2011. The Notice of Public Hearing, along with the Economic Impact Statement and the text of the proposed rule was posted to the INDIANA REGISTER database website on September 14, 2011 as 20110914-IR-312110358PHA. Following receipt of an “Authorization to Proceed” from LSA on August 31, 2011, the NRC Division of Hearings also caused a Notice of Public Hearing to be published by the Indianapolis Newspapers, a newspaper of general circulation in Marion County, Indiana, on September 9, 2011. In addition, notice of the public hearing and a summary of the proposed rule changes were published on the NRC’s web-based electronic calendar.

2. REPORT OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENTS

a) Public Hearing Comments

Public hearings were conducted as scheduled on October 11, 2011 at the Canyon Inn located in the McCormicks Creek State Park near Spencer, Indiana, and on October 17, 2011 at the Miami County Fairgrounds, located near Peru, Indiana. Sandra Jensen served as the hearing officer. Linnea Petercheff participated on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife and Lt. Col. Steve Hunter participated on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources Division of Law Enforcement. Seven members of the public attended the October 11, 2011 public hearing while eight members of the public participated in the October 17, 2011 public hearing. A summary of the comments received have been attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A. Three individuals offered written comments at the public hearings and those written comments have been attached and incorporated as Exhibit A1 through A3.

b) Comments Received Outside Public Hearing

An opportunity was provided for the public to submit written comments from approximately January 2011 until October 2011. At the request of Bryan Poynter, Commission Chair, written comments collected by Friends of White River that were presented to the Commission on January 11, 2011 by Kevin Hardie, who spoke in support of the Commission’s preliminary adoption of this rule proposal, have also been included. The written comments have been attached to this report as Exhibit B, which is incorporated by reference.

c) Response by the Department of Natural Resources

The public comments received reveal that the proposed rule will have unanticipated consequences upon bass tournament fishing that will be discussed in further detail in the Analysis and Recommendation Section below. John Davis, Deputy Director of the Department, provided an update to the Natural Resources Advisory Council in December 2011 and to the Commission in January 2012, indicating an expectation that a resolution would be identified. However, the Department has not submitted a response for inclusion in this report.

3. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

The hearing officer would offer that this report for consideration is being submitted to the Commission without benefit of the Department's response to the public comments because the Commission must take action on this rule amendment proposal at the March 2012 meeting or it will be impossible to complete the processing of this rule proposal within one year as required by Indiana Code § 4-22-2-25. Because the hearing officer was assured that the Department was working with constituents to address the issues in need of resolution she did not seek an extension of time to complete the rule processes. The deadline for submitting a request for such extension expired on February 20, 2012.

Under the proposed amendment to 312 IAC 9-7-6 a sport angler on every Indiana river or stream could take only black bass that are 12 inches in length or less or 15 inches in length or greater and would be limited to taking only five black bass total with only two of those being black bass measuring 15 inches or longer. This rule is not applicable to sport fishing on the Ohio River, which is governed by 312 IAC 9-7-16. Presently 312 IAC 9-7-6 allows a sport angler to take black bass 12 inches in length or longer, which is the same size limit that applies to sport fishing for black bass on the Ohio River under 312 IAC 9-7-16(f).

In their comments, Ohio River bass tournament anglers noted that not only do they fish the main stem of the Ohio River that is governed by 312 IAC 9-7-16(f), but they also fish the tributaries and bays to the Ohio River, which are governed by 312 IAC 9-7-6. Brad Moser, Mark Dove and other bass tournament anglers offered that approximately 90% of the black bass caught during an Ohio River bass tournament are caught from within a tributary or bay instead of from the main stem of the Ohio River and further approximated that of the 90% caught from tributaries and bays, 50% of those are caught from an Indiana tributary or bay. Mark Dove and Seth Brown observed that a minimum of 80% of the black bass weighed in during a tournament are within the 12 to 15 inch slot that the anglers would be prohibited from taking from the tributaries and bays to the Ohio River if this rule amendment is adopted without revision.

The Ohio River bass tournament anglers were joined by Beverly Minto from the Perry County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Linda Lytle with the Madison Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Jenny Eggenpiller representing the City of Madison, in observing that the affect of

the proposed rule amendment will, at best, be a decrease in the number of bass tournaments and, at worst, be a complete elimination of bass tournaments on the Ohio River. In either situation the comments emphasized that the impact would be devastating to the economies of communities along the Ohio River.

Beverly Minto offered that the loss of bass tournaments could result in as much as \$16 million dollars in lost revenue to Tell City and Perry County. Mark Dove reported, based upon information he received from FLW Outdoors, an organization sponsoring bass tournaments on the Ohio River, that a 100 boat FLW Outdoors bass tournament typically results in an approximate \$100,000 gain for the local economy. Dove added that FLW Outdoors held four such bass tournaments in the Lawrenceburg area during the most recent season. The expenditures made by the bass fishing tournament participants include lodging, dining, equipment, fuel and supplies, among other items some of which will impact local marinas and bait shops. These sentiments were expressed by business owners Ralph Harding, the owner of Perry Marina, and Carl Waddington of Red Dirt Bait Company, who observed that the loss of tournament fishing on the Ohio River would negatively impact their businesses.

In addition to concerns that the proposed amendment will have upon bass tournaments conducted on the Ohio River, a lesser number of comments reflected that the proposed rule amendment will negatively impact bass tournaments that occur on different waterways, such as the St. Joseph River. Mitchell Hayes explained that there is a bass tournament on the St. Joseph River nearly every weekend in the summer with the majority of the black bass caught being near the 14 inch length, a length that under the proposed rule amendment Hayes would be prohibited from taking. Hayes added that the expenditures made by teams involved in the bass tournaments on the St. Joseph River are for dining, lodging, fuel, supplies and other items that average \$1,800 per team, with customarily 25 teams in participation.

Indiana Code § 4-22-2.1-5 requires an agency to include specific data into an analysis of the economic impacts of a rule upon small businesses if the rule “will impose requirements or costs on small businesses.” In this instance the Department determined that there were no costs or requirements imposed upon small businesses. Because the rule amendment imposes only a new size limit upon individual anglers, the hearing officer concurs that additional “costs or requirements” were not imposed upon “small businesses”; however, it is apparent that this proposed rule amendment will have indirect economic impacts upon entire local communities as well as bass tournament organizers and sponsors.

Based upon previous discussions with Department representatives, particularly Linnea Petercheff, the hearing officer is aware that the impacts of this rule amendment proposal upon bass tournaments, as described in the public comments, were unintended. Further, the hearing officer is aware that Department staff considered a number of methods to address these

unintended consequences by decreasing the breadth of application of the proposed rule amendments. Department staff discussed with the hearing officer the ability to revise the proposed rule amendment to render it inapplicable to rivers and streams in the Indiana Counties bordering the Ohio River. It was also considered that the rule could be rendered inapplicable to specified river or stream segments from their confluence with the Ohio River to a finite point upstream that would be expressed in either river miles or identified by a specific landmark, such as a bridge overpass. It was also deliberated whether the rule could be applied to all rivers and streams except those identified as navigable waterways having a confluence with the Ohio River, as identified in the *Roster of Indiana Waterways Declared Navigable or Nonnavigable, Information Bulletin #3 (Third Amendment), June 11, 2008, 20080611-IR-312080426NRA. (Hereinafter referred to as "the Navigable Waterways List")*. Discussions indicate that each of these methods has potential for accomplishing the intended purpose but each also has its own particular challenges.

Absent additional input from the Department the hearing officer is unable to offer much detail but is here attempting to provide as much information for Commission consideration as is possible. The hearing officer understands that the Department's primary concern related to the public's and a Conservation Officer's ability to identify which river or stream or which portion of a river or stream was included in the requirements of the proposed rule amendment.

Identifying stream segments and specifying a finite upstream point as a line of demarcation between applicability and inapplicability of the proposed rule amendments using river miles was not favored because while some boaters would have equipment to measure river miles traveled, others would not. Furthermore, because these relatively arbitrary points on the river would be newly created there is no existing familiarity with landmarks or river/stream features by which to ascertain the upstream line demarking applicability of the new size limits. It was believed that this method would be particularly difficult in terms of compliance by the general public.

The Department staff went to great lengths to identify landmarks, such as bridges, that could be used to establish a point at which the proposed rule amendment would have applicability to a river or stream. For the vast majority of the identified rivers or streams this method appears viable; however, for the rivers and streams located in Jefferson, Switzerland and Dearborn Counties, the effort to identify upstream landmarks proved futile.

A review of the *2011-2012 Fishing Guide* reveals several instances in which fishing regulations are specified based upon river or stream segments identified on a county basis. Particularly as it relates to black bass, the existing rule contains special size restrictions for a segment of Sugar Creek through Montgomery, Parke, Boone, Clinton and Tipton Counties and for a segment of the Blue River in Crawford, Harrison and Washington Counties. These instances lend support to a conclusion that the size limits specified in the proposed rule amendment could be made

applicable to all rivers and streams except those river and stream segments located in Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland Ohio and Dearborn Counties. The published rule with this revision is attached and incorporated as Exhibit C.

The Navigable Waterways List is used for a wide variety of Department regulatory functions “that rest upon a determination of navigability” and for this reason, identification of certain rivers and streams to be excluded from application of the proposed rule amendments by use of the Navigable Waterways List also appears to be a viable alternative. The Navigable Waterways List has existed since July 1, 1992 and for that reason Conservation Officers and boaters either do have, or should have, some degree of familiarity with landmarks or river/stream features by which to identify the upstream limits of navigability that would establish the applicability or inapplicability of the size limits created by the proposed rule amendment. The published rule with this revision is attached and incorporated as Exhibit D.

Absent input from the Department, the hearing officer can provide only these limited insights with respect to resolving the unintended consequences of the proposed rule amendment upon bass tournament fishing occurring on Ohio River. The hearing officer was not involved in any discussions with Department staff regarding bass tournaments occurring on the St. Joseph River or any other stream or river. Therefore, it is unknown to the hearing officer whether the necessary protection for the black bass fishery can be provided in a manner that will eliminate or reduce the impacts upon bass tournaments occurring on rivers and streams other than the Ohio River.

Jeff Rude offered a comment revealing that difference in the lengths of black bass that may be taken from the main stem of the Ohio River as compared to the lengths of the black bass that may be taken from the tributaries and bays to the Ohio River present complications in terms of both compliance by the angler as well as enforcement by Department Conservation Officers. He observed that anglers predominantly access the Ohio River through access sites located on the Ohio River tributaries. The existing language of 312 IAC 9-7-6(l) states:

If this section prohibits an individual from taking or possessing a black bass from a specified water of the state, an individual must not possess a black bass of the prohibited class on or adjacent to the specified water of the state.

The hearing officer observes that if the rule amendment is adopted as proposed an angler who lawfully takes a black bass of 13 – 14 inches in length from the main stem of the Ohio River under 312 IAC 9-7-16(f) is arguably adjacent to a tributary or stream where taking that size of black bass is prohibited. Furthermore, an angler who accessed the Ohio River through a site located on a tributary to the Ohio River would arguably be prohibited from possessing black bass

of 13 – 14 inches in length taken from the Ohio River while navigating the tributary to return to the access site.

While the hearing officer accepts Jeff Rude's comment as expressing a legitimate concern she observes that a similar situation already occurs with respect to the existing dictates of 312 IAC 9-7-6 relating to the length of black bass that may be taken from rivers and streams as compared to the length of black bass lawfully taken from lakes and reservoirs. Presently, a black bass 12 inches in length or greater may be taken from rivers and streams while on lakes and reservoirs a black bass must be 14 inches or longer to be taken. Many, if not all, lakes and reservoirs are conjoined to a river or stream and it may logically be assumed that black bass taken from a lake or reservoir may be possessed while the angler is navigating a river or stream segment. Without information from the Department in response to this issue the hearing officer would be left to speculate as to how this situation is presently being addressed.

Similar to the issue raised by Jeff Rude with respect to different black bass size limits on adjoining bodies of water, the hearing officer also observes that, at present, the bag limit specified for the rivers and streams dictates that an angler may take five black bass per day, 312 IAC 9-7-6(a), whereas under the proposed rule amendment the bag limit for black bass will continue to be five but with the addition that only two of those five may be 15 inches or longer. *Proposed rule amendment 312 IAC 9-7-6((c)(1))*. An angler on the Ohio River, however, is authorized to take six black bass per day 312 IAC 9-7-16(f). The existing difference in the bag limit for rivers and streams as compared to the bag limit applicable to the Ohio River creates a practical problem with respect to compliance and enforcement. The proposed rule amendments perpetuate the existing difference in the bag limit for rivers and streams as compared to the bag limit on the Ohio River and thus also perpetuates the existing practical dilemma.

While Both of these practical difficulties should potentially be addressed by a future rule amendment, neither is not new nor is either a direct conflict between two rules.

This proposal was brought forward by the Department following a recommendation by the Natural Resources Advisory Council and the Commission as part of the Fish and Wildlife Rules Enhancement Project. Overall, the majority of individuals offering public comments, including the bass tournament anglers who oppose the rule as presently offered, support the Department's efforts to provide protection for black bass.

In the mind of the hearing officer, it does appear possible to revise the published proposed rule amendment to eliminate the unintended impacts upon the Ohio River bass tournaments. As stated above, two such methods are attached and incorporated as Exhibit C and Exhibit D. The hearing officer observes that the written public comments received would, in her opinion, support either offered revision.

Under the present circumstances, the hearing officer is in a position to offer three alternative recommendations for Commission consideration but recognizes that there are almost certainly other, equally viable, alternatives available. The hearing officer would recommend for consideration, in no priority order, that the Commission take one of the following actions.

- (1) Grant final adoption of the rule amendment proposal as revised in Exhibit C.
 - (2) Grant final adoption of the rule amendment proposal as revised in Exhibit D.
- or
- (3) Withdraw the present rule adoption proposal with instructions for a different rule amendment proposal to be submitted for Commission consideration that offers both:
 - (a) statewide protection for the black bass fishery;
 - (b) preservation of Indiana bass tournament fishing to all extents practicable.

Dated: February 29, 2012

Sandra L. Jensen
Hearing Officer

EXHIBIT A

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT SUMMARY

October 11, 2011 (McCormick's Creek)

Bill Stockwell, Spencer, Indiana

Stockwell, after confirming his understanding of the rule amendments, stated state "I have no problem with that."

Rick Robinson, Spencer, Indiana

Robinson offered the opinion that all caught fish should be released. He also observed that although he fishes White River he's never caught bass there except up north around Grissom Air Force Base, where he described it as a completely different river.

Nathan Mullendore, Indiana Small Mouth Alliance (ISMA)

Mullendore stated that the ISMA is comprised of approximately 100 dedicated small mouth anglers and is primarily a conservation group. He stated that the ISMA has been in communication with staff of the Division of Fish and Wildlife for several months. Based upon his understanding of the rationale for the proposal, Mullendore offered that "it is a good rule" that "will improve the fishery for our members and for others". Mullendore noted particular appreciation for the establishment of a bag limit on bass over 15 inches observing that a bass that size is "a pretty special fish in terms of small mouth in the State."

Barb Simpson, Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF)

Simpson explained that she is the Executive Director of the IWF and offered support for the "slot limit and limiting the take over 15 inches" stating it is a "good rule". Simpson submitted an additional written comment that is attached as Exhibit A1.

Mark Dove, North Vernon, Indiana

Dove stated that he is a proponent of the slot limit observing that the establishment of a slot limit on Patoka Reservoir "took a fishery that was just pathetic and turned it into probably the best fishery in the State of Indiana." However, Dove expressed opposition to the application of the proposed slot limit on the "Ohio River or any of its tributaries." Dove elaborated that his passion is for tournament bass fishing and he has fished "every creek that comes off the Ohio River from the ... West Virginia and Pennsylvania border all the way to where the Ohio dumps into the Mississippi River in Cairo, Illinois."

Dove expressed that through discussions with other people he understood that the impact this rule amendment would have on the tributaries to the Ohio River were unintended and was supposed to be addressed. However, he wished to offer the comment for the record.

Dove stated that all tournament fishing is catch & release and while there is debate about delayed mortality, the reality is that tournament fishing does not involve the actual taking of fish from the waters. Dove noted that probably 80% of all tournament fishing occurs in the tributaries to the Ohio River instead of in the Ohio River main stem and that nearly 95% of all bass weighed in during tournaments are less than 15 inches long. Dove noted that if these rule amendments are applicable to either the Ohio River or the tributaries, it will “absolutely devastate tournament fishing....there won’t be any anymore.”

Aside from the impact on Dove’s passion and hobby, he stated that it will have a “devastating economic effect” on three Indiana cities that he is certain of. Dove specifically mentioned Lawrenceburg, Indiana and Tell City, Indiana.

Dove elaborated that a national organization, FLW Outdoors that runs Ohio River bass tournaments called the Wal-Mart Bass Fishing League tournaments. Lawrenceburg was host to four of these bass tournaments in 2011 that involved approximately 100 boats each. According to information received from FLW Outdoors, Dove stated that a 100 boat bass tournament puts approximately \$100,000.00 into the local economy in one weekend. With the loss of four such bass tournaments, Lawrenceburg stands to lose \$400,000.00 annually in economic gain to the community from these tournaments alone.

Dove observed that Tell City, Indiana is even more popular to anglers than is Lawrenceburg. Tell City, he added, hosted two BFL tournaments amounting to approximately \$200,000.00 income to the local community. According to Dove, Tell City plays host to many other tournaments and these tournaments make up a large part of the areas tourism. Dove reflected upon an economic analysis prepared by a local bass club that estimates approximately 5,000 anglers visit Tell City, Indiana annually in association with bass tournaments with local economic impacts of an estimated \$16 million annually.

Dove also noted that the impacts would be felt by local marinas, bait and tackle shops, boat repair shops and other small businesses that rely heavily upon the tournament fishing that presently occurs along the Ohio River. If the slot limits established by this rule are applied to the tributaries to the Ohio River, Dove stated that these small businesses “won’t survive.”

Dove explained that he fishes tournaments all over the country and was familiar with the establishment of a similar slot limit in Florida. He noted that the major tournament organizations “pulled out”, the bait and tackle shops “closed up”. According to Dove, to address the problem

created for tournament fishing by the establishment of the slot limits, Florida created an “exemption” from the rule for a “major organization” and stated his belief that what qualified as a “major organization” is an event involving over 50 boats. This process involves providing a card to those anglers who were participating in the tournament in order to identify them for purposes of the exemption.

Dove also offered the suggestion that the slot limit established by this rule amendment not be made applicable to the Ohio River tributaries for a specified distance of, for example, eight – 10 miles upstream from the confluence with the Ohio River.

Dove reiterated his belief that the slot limit to be established by this rule amendment is “great” for the Tippecanoe, Muskatutuck, White and other rivers, but not for the Ohio or its tributaries.

Beverly Minto, Perry County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau

Minto offered that the slot limits are “fine” and are probably “needed” but she noted that “if you take away \$16 million worth of local economy, that’s devastating to a small rural area.” She noted that 60,000 acres of Hoosier National Forest lies inside Perry County so it is limited in what “we have and what we can develop so to take away the one thing that produces that major income for us, and fishing...tournament fishing, is our number one income source for tourism...that’s just devastating to our economy.” The tournaments are “on the books” and represent income that can be counted on but Minto stated her belief that if the slot limits change she doesn’t expect the tournaments to materialize. She expressed concern that the area’s population of 24,000 cannot support the hotels and restaurants without the “outside input from these tournaments.”

Minto offered the suggestion that the portion of the portion of the tributaries located in the “floodplain area” that were changed when the dams were constructed be exempted from the slot limits to be established by this rule. Alternatively, Minto suggested that 5 – 10 miles of the tributaries upstream from the confluence with the Ohio River be removed from the new slot limits.

Ralph Harding, Perry County

Harding stated that he and his wife have owned Perry Marina for 15 years. He expressed that if tournament fishing is ended in the area it would “kill” his marina business and his family’s livelihood. Harding offered the opinion that the proposed slot limits were good but that the tributaries to the Ohio River should not be included.

October 17, 2011 (Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds)

Philip Reel, Kokomo, Indiana

Reel stated that with respect to the reservoirs a way needed to be developed to determine the point at which the stream, river or creek ended and the reservoir begins because with the adoption of this rule amendment the bass size limit will be different for streams than it is for reservoirs. He also inquired whether there were surveys or other data, such as spawn reports, growth reports, fish counts or harvest reports, that supporting this rule amendment proposal. Reel acknowledged that overpopulation of fish in the stream will result in decreased growth but was unaware of data revealing that overpopulation was a problem.

Reel added in a follow up that he recently fished the TPF Northern Divisional in Minnesota. He expressed that the town was “unbelievably receptive” to the tournament noting that they understood the economic gain to their community.

Reel observed that maybe laws need to be amended to address issues with the bass fishery adding that maybe the new regulations should address stream alterations, fishing during the spawn or maybe establish a catch and release season from December to March. Reel acknowledged that he did not know the answer stating simply “this is not the answer”.

Mitchell Hayes, Rochester, Indiana; Hoosier Pro, US Anglers Choice Bass Tournaments, Fulton County Bassmasters and Indiana Bass Federation

Hayes stated that the proposed amendments should not be applied to the St. Joseph River. The monetary impact, according to Hayes, is approximately \$1,800.00 per team for each 25 boat tournament. Hayes stated that these costs would include meals, fees to various local parks departments, fuel and possibly lodging. He stated that the teams frequently arrive before the tournament and pre-fish.

Hayes acknowledged that through his and other tournament organizers there is a tournament on the St. Joseph River nearly every weekend. These tournaments affect the economy of Elkhart, South Bend, Mishawaka and all the surrounding communities in that area.

Hayes stated that the majority of the fish caught during the tournaments are near 14 inches, which will be prohibited if this rule amendment is approved. He added that the largest fish caught in the most recent tournament was approximately 15 inches. Hayes stated that the adoption of this rule amendment will kill the tournament fishing on the St Joseph River.

Jeff Rude, Kokomo, Indiana; Hoosier Open Tournaments (HOT)

Rude stated that HOT organize tournaments on Monroe and Patoka Reservoirs and on the Ohio River. He stated that there would be significant economic impact to Perry County, Evansville, New Albany, Madison and Lawrenceburg, where tournaments are organized out of local tributaries to the Ohio River. Rude stated that Perry County estimated the total economic impact to the Tell City area from approximately 12 fishing tournaments is approximately \$16 million

annually. He added that some of the major fishing tournament organizers, such as the BFL, will not consider the area for tournaments if this rule is adopted. Rude expects that Indiana will not host any large fishing tournaments if this rule is adopted. Rude explained also that the access sites and weigh ins are located in the tributaries to the Ohio River.

Rude expressed that the establishment of an exemption for major events relies upon the distribution of “exempt cards”. He questioned whether these cards would be prepared by the Department or if the tournament organizer would be expected to pay the cost of those cards indicating that the latter would impact his profits.

Rude also noted that despite the tournaments bringing revenue into the local communities the Department is imposing fees such as the \$3.00 lake enhancement fee for Monroe and Patoka that pleasure boaters don’t have to pay

Rude also questioned how the line between the reservoir and the stream would be identified. He further wondered if the tournaments on the reservoirs were unable to also use the streams whether the number of boats would be further restricted because of the decreased water surface area. Conversely he explained that if the Ohio River is shut down additional pressure will be placed on the reservoirs, particularly Monroe and Patoka. Rude noted that this is “business for us” observing that if the Ohio River is shut down over half of the tournament trail is shut down.

Additionally, Rude submitted a written letter prepared by Brad Moser of First River City Bassmasters, which is attached and incorporated at Exhibit A2.

Chuck Brinkman, Zionsville, Indiana; Indiana Smallmouth Alliance and the Indiana Wildlife Federation

Brinkman explained that he and the represented organizations are always in favor of any rule, “specifically this one, that strengthens the bass population.” Brinkman stated that “we live in the streams” and we think that this rule amendment will improve the bass population.

Brinkman also offered a written comment on behalf of the Indiana Smallmouth Alliance and the Indiana Wildlife Federation that is attached and incorporated at Exhibit A3.

Paul Hollabaugh, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Indiana Bass Federation (IBF)

Hollabaugh stated that as the President of IBF his primary concern relates to the Ohio River and its tributaries but secondarily he expressed concern for the effects of this rule amendment on tournament fishing on the St. Joseph River. Hollabaugh stated that many nice fish between 13 – 15 inches were caught during a tournament last week on the St Joseph River. He expressed need for further consideration of the proposed amendment’s impact on the Ohio and St. Joseph Rivers observing that this rule will “kill” tournament fishing in both Rivers.

Mark Shane, Mooresville, Indiana; Indiana Bass Federation (IBF)

Shane identified himself as the State Conservation Director for the IBF and advised that the “estimated average annual economic impact” reported as “none” is incorrect. Shane advised that he personally spent over \$1,000.00 the previous weekend at a tournament similar to those conducted in Indiana. He added that tournament anglers bring very expensive equipment that “gets 5 miles to the gallon” with gas at \$4.00 a gallon “it’s a huge impact on the local” community. Shane explained that most of the tournaments on the Ohio are held out of Tanners Creek and Rocky Point and “if this goes through in its present state it will kill” tournament fishing on the Ohio River.

Shane emphasized the fact that tournament anglers practice catch and release so they are not impacting the population. Shane also expressed his opinion that tournament anglers are “targeted” in Indiana “because we’re organized”. He elaborated that the Department relies on the tournament anglers for creel surveys “they’re sitting there at our ramps waiting on us to do as they charge us \$3.00 a boat and a \$20.00 lake enhancement fee to put our boat on the water and ...\$8.00 to get in the gate.” Shane noted the pleasure boaters and sport anglers are not required to pay all these same fees and that other states do not charge any of these fees.

Shane concluded stating, “ These slot limits are gonna kill the tournament fishing, period. And all that’s gonna do is put more boats on already stressed bodies of water” adding further that he refuses to put his boat on an Indiana lake on a holiday because of congestion. Shane added that just recently he wrote check totaling \$18,000.00 to pay expenses for 13 anglers for one tournament. He added that those anglers also spent additional personal funds during the course of the tournament. He added that there were 6 states involved in the tournament and all the teams would have had similar expenses. Shane noted that this is only a small example of the money being spent in relation to bass tournaments occurring presently in Indiana.



INDIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION SINCE 1938

October 11, 2011

Re: Proposed Rule #11-358 to amend 312 IAC 9-7-6

To the Indiana Natural Resources Commission,

The Indiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide organization of approximately 1600 members representing individual members as well as more than 50 conservation clubs. We are dedicated to the wise use, both consumptive and non-consumptive, of our country's fish and wildlife resources. Many of our members hunt, fish or trap.

The Indiana Wildlife Federation supports Proposed Rule #11-358 which amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 to replace the 12 inches limit for black bass taken from rivers and streams with a 12 inches to 15 inches slot limit. We also support the possession limit of 5 black bass in a day, with not more than two being over 15 inches.

The 12-15 inches slot limit will provide protection to the black bass that are the better spawners, better at selecting nesting sites, and better at protecting the nest. The ability to now take fish under 12 inches will help relieve stockpiling of smaller fish.

The overall issue for maintaining healthy and stable black bass populations is not angler harvest, but habitat quality, primarily sediment in our rivers and streams, and poor water quality due to excessive nutrients and chemicals.

The IDNR has several years of experience with the slot limit on the Blue River and has seen that river respond very well. It is now appropriate to apply the slot limit to rivers and streams across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Simpson
Executive Director



4715 West 106th Street • Zionsville, IN 46077 • Phone: 317 875-9453 (WILD) • Fax: 317 875-9442
800 347-3445 • www.indianawildlife.org

First River City Bassmasters

First River City Bassmasters
3134 Arbor Ridge Ln
New Albany, IN 47150
(502)644-2271

October 10, 2011

Natural Resources Commission
 Indiana Government Center North
 100 North Senate Ave., Room N501
 Indianapolis, IN 46204



Re: 2011-2012 Proposed rule changes to black bass rules in streams

Dear Natural Resource Commission,

As President of First River City Bassmasters and avid angler of Indiana Creeks, I'd like to respond to this proposed rule change. The economic impact in Lawrenceburg, Tell City, Jeffersonville, and Evansville is simply overwhelming. According to Bev Minto, Perry County Convention and Tourism Bureau, there are approximately 5,000-6,000 tournament anglers just like myself that visit Tell City every year. Please help me figure the economic value and total dollars we are spending in Perry County every year.

I stay approximately 12 times at the Holiday Inn in Tell City at \$80/Night and I spend roughly \$200 each weekend dining and shopping in Tell City each of those weekends. That is \$3,360.00 each year I spend in Tell City.

<u>Per Angler Weekend Expenses</u>	<u>5,000 Anglers Visit Perry County/Year</u>
\$80 Hotel x 12 Stays/Year = \$960/Year	\$4,800,000.00/Year
\$50 Dining x 12 Stays/Year = \$600.00/Year	\$3,000,000.00/Year
\$50 Boat/Trailer Maintenance x 12 Stays/Year=\$600/Year	\$3,000,000.00/Year
\$100 Boat/Truck Fuel x 12 Stays Year=\$1,200/year	\$6,000,000.00/Year

Annual Revenue Per Angler \$3,360.00

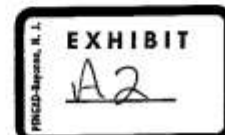
Total Annual Revenue \$16,800,000.00

If this proposed rule change goes through as posted on web, bass tournaments on the Ohio River that are hosted in Indiana will cease. Please give careful consideration of the full impact before implementing a true game changing rule.

Sincerely,

Brad Moser
First River City Bassmasters
President

Submitted by:
 Jeff Ruck.



Public meeting on Black Bass

"The Indiana Wildlife Federation supports the Proposed Rule #11-358 which amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 to replace the 12 inches limit for black bass taken from rivers and streams with a 12 inches to 15 inches slot limit. We also support the possession limit of 5 black bass in a day, with not more than two being over 15 inches.

The 12-15 inches slot limit will provide protection to the black bass that are the better spawners, better at selecting nesting sites, and better at protecting the nest. The ability to now take fish under 12 inches will help relieve stockpiling of smaller fish.

The overall issue for maintaining healthy and stable black bass populations is not angler harvest, but habitat quality, primarily sediment in our rivers and streams and poor water quality due to excessive nutrients and chemicals.

The IDNR has several years of experience with the slot limit on Blue River and has seen that river respond very well. It is now appropriate to apply the slot limit to rivers and streams across the state."

Submitted by:
Chuck Brinkman
Indiana Smallmouth Alliance
Indiana Wildlife Federation



EXHIBIT B**WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Proposed Rule Change Name: Smallmouth Bass (Black Bass)

Proposed Rule Change Description: (LSA #11-358) Amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 to replace the minimum size limit of twelve inches for black bass taken from rivers or streams with a statewide requirement that black bass taken from rivers and streams must be less than twelve inches long or greater than 15 inches long, with not more than two black bass being greater than 15 inches long. This requirement is currently in place only in the Blue River in Crawford, Harrison, and Washington counties.

Comments:

[Download Data](#)

Commentor Name William T. McKay

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am in favor of the proposed small mouth bass slot limit.

Time stamp 01/17/2011 04:07:32 AM

Commentor Name H Dan Adams, MD

Commentor County 82

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Evansville

Commentor Organization Ohio River Fly Rod Club

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Dear Sirs: What a wonderful improvement this regulation would provide ! It would have Indiana catch up to virtually all of the other states on the Northern tier. Smallies grow SO slowly and we really need to allow them the protection to do so. Thank you for proposing this change. I pray that it passes. All the Best, Dan (H.Dan Adams, MD MBA, Evansville City Councilman At-Large)

Time stamp 01/17/2011 05:07:14 AM

Commentor Name Jack Harford

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City indianapolis

Commentor Organization Indianapolis Fly Casters

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think this would be a great rule for the whole state. It helps preserve the adult

smallmouth population during their most productive spawning years. I also allows those wishing to eat a few smallmouth, which can be quite delicious, the opportunity to do so without interrupting the reproductive viability of our smallmouth population.

Sincerely,

Jack Harford

Time stamp 01/17/2011 12:39:29 PM

Commentor Name Robert F Wiley

Commentor County 29

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Carmel

Commentor Organization Indianapolis Flycasters

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment A slot limit for smallmouth bass would greatly facilitate their reproductive rate. The slot limit and takeout limit of two over 15 inches would increase populations and make fishing more enjoyable for all.

Time stamp 01/17/2011 02:13:27 PM

Commentor Name Christopher Haviland

Commentor County 6

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Zionsville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support the more restrictive slot limit for smallmouth bass in riverine environments

Time stamp 01/17/2011 05:33:52 PM

Commentor Name David Lasser

Commentor County 45

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Schererville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support the proposed slot limits on smallmouth

Time stamp 01/17/2011 06:25:49 PM

Commentor Name Paul LaRosa

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization Indpls Flycasters

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support the proposed legislation to have a 12"-15" slot limit on Smallmouth Bass in our rivers.

Time stamp 01/18/2011 05:27:26 AM

Commentor Name Keith Foor

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

<p>Commentor Organization</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment Overall, I agree with the proposal. However, looking at other areas that try to improve the quality of the smallmouth fishery, I think that the state should set a limit of only one smallmouth of 15 inches be taken per day. While 12-15 inches is good breeding size for males, the females, especially the larger ones, will be the future of the species in the state.</p> <p>Time stamp 01/18/2011 08:01:15 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name John F. Trout III</p> <p>Commentor County 19</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City Holland</p> <p>Commentor Organization Ohio Valley Fly Rod Club</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment I know nothing finer than playing out a mid-size smallmouth on one of Indiana's scenic rivers. These fish are far too few. A law protecting this valuable resource, while respecting the rights of fisherman to bring home a fish, is long overdue. I fully support these rule changes.</p> <p>Time stamp 01/18/2011 09:30:46 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Robert Cockrum</p> <p>Commentor County 82</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City Evansville</p> <p>Commentor Organization</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment I support the slot limit for smallmouth bass--State wide.</p> <p>Thank you Bob Cockrum</p> <p>Time stamp 01/19/2011 05:19:01 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Chris Heaton</p> <p>Commentor County 71</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City South Bend</p> <p>Commentor Organization None</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment Great rule. A slot system will drastically improve the black bass stock throughout the state. Specifically the Rivers of St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, Pigeon, Kankakee, and Elkhart.</p> <p>Time stamp 01/19/2011 09:32:38 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name chuck brinkman</p> <p>Commentor County 6</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City ZIONSVILLE</p> <p>Commentor Organization</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p>

Comment Folks,

I think the proposed reg is a very good start to increase protection of the most popular state-wide river gamefish in indiana.

I like the protection for smallies > 12" and the fact that it is statewide including smaller waters where protection is needed most.

Good job!

Time stamp 01/21/2011 05:26:34 PM

Commentor Name Brian Althouse

Commentor County 52

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Peru

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think this is a great idea. We've needed to change smallmouth reguations for awhile now, this is a step in the right direction.

Time stamp 01/22/2011 05:21:53 AM

Commentor Name Thomas M. Doddridge

Commentor County 22

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenville

Commentor Organization Indiana Smallmouth Alliance

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think the proposed rule changes will really improve the quality of fishing for smallmouth bass in Indiana, especially the smaller creeks and streams that drain less than 250 square miles. Consistently taking 5 fish over 12 inches (current regulation) over one summer from some waters in Indiana can have a devastating impact. I really hope this passes.

Time stamp 01/22/2011 05:41:38 AM

Commentor Name Travis Houston

Commentor County 79

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Lafayette

Commentor Organization Indiana Smallmouth Association

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am requesting any information regarding what data has been collected to support the needed change. Have on the water creel surverys, phone surveys, etc.. been conducted to determine the harvest rates of smallies? Are natural mortality rates known?

How has the Blue responded to the slot? Is this river indicative of other waters targeted for smallies?

I have not kept up with management of fisheries after obtaining my degree but know that what ISA has presented its members has equated to it would be "cool" to see what happens, Missouri

or Illinois did this... etc... Cherry picked articles to support what they believe with no real data specific to our waters.

I am currently in opposition of any changes to regulations until I find data that supports such changes.

Time stamp 01/22/2011 07:36:43 AM

Commentor Name Zachery Pagac

Commentor County 30

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenfield

Commentor Organization IN Smallmouth Alliance (INSA)

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support this new rule. I believe that it would be a step forward toward preserving and improving our stream bass fisheries statewide.

Time stamp 01/23/2011 03:47:49 AM

Commentor Name Patrick E Putman

Commentor County 41

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenwood

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I fully support this proposal!

Time stamp 01/25/2011 07:18:24 AM

Commentor Name Jerry L, Walker

Commentor County 18

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Muncie

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I really like the new rule, I fish White River in Delaware County alot during the spring and summer and see alot of smallies being taken out and I think that the new rules would stop this and give the species a chance to grow and give the fishermen in this county a chance to maybe take thier child out and catch a big bass and show them that our waters are a great place to fish. Thank you again for this rule change it is one that has been needed for some time now.

Time stamp 01/27/2011 08:04:37 PM

Commentor Name Bryan McGill

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization Multiple Local Bass Clubs, IBF, IBFN, FLW, BASS

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment To whom it may concern,

Please consider my following opinion, formed by many years of fishing Smallmouth bass exclusively in Indiana streams and rivers, competitively and recreation-ally. It is my

interpretation of amendment to 312 IAC 9-7-6 that the intentions are to bolster breeding-age fish, thereby improving the population and overall quality. My opinion is several fold:

1.) Your focus should instead be on cleaning up our waterways. Do something everyone can be proud of and benefit from. Isn't there some way to redirect resources to this effort? Everyone wins, and you'll accomplish your goal: fish will thrive.

2.) Young fish (under 12") are more susceptible to "foul-hooking" and critical injuries. Young fish are less likely to recover from the rigors of tournament fishing. I see it all the time - the 14" fish survives and the 12" fish struggle or die before reentry to water. What good is breeding, if many of the young never make it to an older age? Tournament fishermen WILL weigh-in fish under 12", if forced to. Surely I'm not the first to bring this up...

3.) This will have negative impact on the tournament fishing. That's really who this affects most directly. After all, who keeps fish out of the river? Particularly Smallmouth? Those people make up a very small percentage of anglers. Point being: listen to your tournament fishermen. They have a pulse on the Smallmouth as much as anyone.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Bryan McGill

Time stamp 02/01/2011 12:15:23 PM

Commentor Name David R. Treeter

Commentor County 41

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenwood

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Although slot limits are not consistently successful, I believe that the proposed rule changes are worth consideration and should be approved.

Time stamp 02/06/2011 08:14:46 AM

Commentor Name Kevin Hogan

Commentor County 32

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Pittsboro

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support the proposed rule change that would introduce a slot limit for smallmouth bass. I believe that the proposed rule would help prevent the overharvesting of larger, quality bass without reducing the total number of smallmouths that could be harvested.

Time stamp 02/06/2011 05:11:13 PM

Commentor Name Robert Loser

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN
Commentor City Indianapolis
Commentor Organization Individual
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I favor making black bass possession rules less complex. Having a 3 inch slot on possession of fish taken from rivers/streams, with no more than 5 fish on the low size and 2 on the high size, will be hard for fishermen to remember and difficult for the DNR to enforce.

Time stamp 02/11/2011 07:49:13 AM

Commentor Name David Replogle
Commentor County 29
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Fishers
Commentor Organization White River Bass Masters
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Any perceived problem is not with the current law(s), but with the enforcement. We have three types of fishermen: tournament anglers, catch-and-release anglers and meat-eaters. Tournament anglers follow all the rules because they have to for their respective tournament, but ultimately release every catch alive. Catch-and-release anglers do not care about the rules because they release everything. Meat-eaters either follow the laws or keep everything without regards to the laws. This proposed law change only affects meat-eaters that follow the law. In my opinion, changing this law will have minimal impact. The only way I see making Indiana's rivers and streams better fisheries is through enforcement. More specifically, enforcement that keeps meat-eaters, which do not follow any law regardless of its wording, from loading up their coolers with illegal fish.

Time stamp 02/17/2011 07:10:41 AM

Commentor Name Jeff Armstrong
Commentor County 37
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Wheatfield
Commentor Organization www.IndianaNature.com
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment What is the point in keeping bass less than 12 inches? Why are we protecting bass in the 12-15 inch range? If people are going to be keeping bass for eaters, fish under 12 inches is pretty pointless.

Change the rule to only allow 3 fish maximum, no fish under 15 inches and only 1 fish over 20. Basically changing your rule of only 2 over 15 to 3 and adding in only one over 20 can be kept.

This protects the younger fish so they can reach a good catchable size.

Time stamp 02/22/2011 08:12:19 AM

Commentor Name Thomas E Welter
Commentor County 15
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Lawrenveburg
Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support the slot limit. However, I think it should just be a 15 inch minimum. Protect the little guys also. Not much to eat on a fish that size!

Time stamp 02/25/2011 08:22:50 AM

Commentor Name David E. Lovett

Commentor County 29

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Fishers

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am in favor of the proposed rule, especially limiting the number of "take home fish" to no more than 2 15" or larger fish daily. I would like to see more legislation created to protect Indiana game fish especially smallmouth bass.

Time stamp 03/01/2011 09:36:50 PM

Commentor Name Clayton J Wright

Commentor County 27

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Gas City

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think this will be a phenominal boost to the smallmouth fisheries of Indiana. A slot limit will allow the most active breeding fish in the population the chance to breed for several years before they must worry about mans predation.

I have seen this method used to great benefit for largemouth bass in Florida lakes such as Ishtapoga. Over time these lakes became hugely successful in producing quality fish and as a result draw thousands of out of state anglers a year.

Great choice INDNR

Time stamp 06/15/2011 07:48:47 AM

Commentor Name Brenden Terrill

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization Indiana Smallmouth Alliance

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment YES> YES>YES. Do this. Would help make up for poor spawns when Springs are too rainy.

Time stamp 06/15/2011 01:21:20 PM

Commentor Name Gary Griffin

Commentor County 45

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Merrillville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I like the idea of a "slot limit" for smallmouth. It should help, I am originally from Missouri and they did a slot limit for largemouth many years ago and it was beneficial.

<p>Time stamp 06/15/2011 02:28:55 PM</p> <p>Commentor Name Matthew Bengs Commentor County 49 Commentor State IN Commentor City Indianapolis Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I am in support of this rule change, this will protect the most prolific spawners as well as the larger "trophy" fish in our rivers and streams! Time stamp 06/15/2011 05:24:16 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Jonathan Mark DeBoer Commentor County 29 Commentor State IN Commentor City Carmel Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I am in favor of the proposed slot limit on Smallmouth/Black Bass. Time stamp 06/16/2011 08:00:22 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Jeremy Sheiko Commentor County 79 Commentor State IN Commentor City Lafayette Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I fully support this new regulation. Time stamp 06/20/2011 08:09:53 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Roger Swalls Commentor County Out of State Commentor State IN Commentor City Clinton Commentor Organization 47842 Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment Good idea! Time stamp 06/20/2011 07:54:46 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Thomas Roach Commentor County 28 Commentor State IN Commentor City Bloomfield Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I think this is an excellent rule, although I would have preferred you make the limit ONE fish over 15 inches. I would also like to say i think this rule should be adopted at fisheries that currently have the 12 to 15 inch slot limit, i think 5 fish under but only one (or two) over would work.</p>

<p>Thanks</p> <p>Tom Roach</p> <p>Time stamp 06/21/2011 09:43:04 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Christopher A Carver Jr.</p> <p>Commentor County 26</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City owensville</p> <p>Commentor Organization</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment Let it be 15 inch's, but definitely keep an eye in case of over population. Don't want an ecosystem to go out of whack.</p> <p>Time stamp 07/07/2011 08:02:32 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name David E. Lovett</p> <p>Commentor County 29</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City Indianapolis</p> <p>Commentor Organization INSA</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment I am in favor of this rule and believe that it will do much to improve the average size of bass in Indiana's streams.</p> <p>Time stamp 07/15/2011 07:52:33 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Larry R Lee</p> <p>Commentor County 47</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City Mitchell</p> <p>Commentor Organization</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment I think the proposed change is a very good idea. There are way too many on the small fish.</p> <p>Time stamp 07/26/2011 03:49:10 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Andrew Snider</p> <p>Commentor County 29</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City Westfield</p> <p>Commentor Organization</p> <p>Commentor Email Email Commentor</p> <p>Comment Just make the rule no bass under 15 inches and only 1 bass over 18 inches in possession.</p> <p>Time stamp 07/27/2011 05:10:12 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Joel Nute</p> <p>Commentor County 18</p> <p>Commentor State IN</p> <p>Commentor City Muncie</p> <p>Commentor Organization</p>

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am against this rule change. Unless, the 12-15 inch slots limit fish are the ones that produce the most eggs. If those fish are the best breeders, then I would agree with the change. If not, then there really is no reason for it.

Time stamp 08/11/2011 11:46:33 AM

Commentor Name James A. Kelley

Commentor County 55

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Martinsville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think the rule is a good idea.

Time stamp 08/31/2011 12:02:11 PM

Commentor Name Thomas A. Williams

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City indianapolis

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I would agree to the change, alot of indiana lakes and streams need the same rule, abundance of small bass. Freinds and myself have wondered why something has not been done yet.

Time stamp 08/31/2011 12:22:32 PM

Commentor Name Brent Ridenour

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Great change. Would even be better if the 15 inch limit was increased to 16 or 17 inches.

Time stamp 08/31/2011 12:45:21 PM

Commentor Name Allan L. Fish

Commentor County 41

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenwood

Commentor Organization TIP Board

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am 100% in favor of the proposed slot limit for Smallmouth Bass.

Allan Fish

614 Brushwood Way

Greenwood, IN 46142

Time stamp 08/31/2011 12:58:12 PM

Commentor Name Jeff Armstrong
Commentor County 37
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Wheatfield
Commentor Organization IndianaNature.com
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I like the rule change. I would protect them up to 17 inches though. Perfer 18 inches actually.

Now if you can just enforce the rule better. I know I have yet to see the DNR on the Kankakee River. I was fishing it last week and a guy kept a short bass. I had ample opportunity to turn him in and perhaps the DNR would have gotten there soon enough, but he would have known it was me and as much as I fished there, my truck would have been a target for sure. TIP needs to accept txt messages as well as phone calls so it can be done discreetly without leaving the river bank!

Time stamp 08/31/2011 01:14:16 PM

Commentor Name Sheldon Karnes
Commentor County 10
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Jeffersonville
Commentor Organization
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think the proposed rule changes to black bass rules in streams is a great idea. There are too many bass being taken by a few people. I live in Jeffersonville, Indiana. There is a large lake about 1/2 mile from my house with no trespassing signs, but people regularly fish it. Is there anyone I can call to report this? Please email me back at fishk11@mindspring.com and let me know. I see them walking off with huge bass often. I obey the law, they should too!

Time stamp 08/31/2011 05:29:46 PM

Commentor Name Eric Lomax
Commentor County 41
Commentor State IN
Commentor City greenwood
Commentor Organization
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I believe this would be a good rule.

Time stamp 08/31/2011 05:38:16 PM

Commentor Name Richard Franks
Commentor County 79
Commentor State IN
Commentor City West Lafayette
Commentor Organization
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Perhaps its time to start managing the black bass species individually, instead of as one group, with separate size restrictions and bag limits. Surely, that would provide more flexibility to the DNR.

Time stamp 09/01/2011 05:39:17 AM

Commentor Name Thomas C Roach

Commentor County 28

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bloomfield

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think this is an excellent rule, I would however like to see it be only ONE Black Bass over 15 inches, but I can live with 2. Keep up the good work.

Time stamp 09/01/2011 05:54:08 AM

Commentor Name Gary L Earl

Commentor County 47

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bedford

Commentor Organization USA BASSIN

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The new rule change is a great tool to help increase the size of the Black Bass on many bodies of water, however this is not the only tool at your disposal.

Placing a ban on certain size fish is ok, but this rule change would greatly effect the bass tournaments taking place on many rivers and lakes in this state.

Bass are always released at tournaments and for that matter they are always released during any pre tournament fishing as well, we can use the term catch and release here which allows those released fish to be caught another day.

The rule should eliminate those participating in Bass fishing tournaments and the state should only place a ban on harvested fish set for consumption.

By enacting these new changes you will eliminate tournament angling on many bodies of water that are now paying for permits, and we can call that revenue to the state that will go away, and that helps no one.

Please stop listening to the biologists in this state and make a phone call to some of the southern states to see how they are so successful and try to impliment what they are doing here in Indiana.

Thanks for reading this rant and have a great day

Time stamp 09/01/2011 06:35:24 AM

Commentor Name Jerry Hart

Commentor County 35

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Huntington

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment U should DO THIS for All waters in Indiana,especially during the winter seasons. I am not from Indiana but the East Coast and this practice is verry productive in establishing

quality bass fishing. Check some of the Stats from New York , New Jersey (Espec), and Pa, Conn., and Va.

Time stamp 09/01/2011 06:36:18 AM

Commentor Name BRYAN TROTTER

Commentor County 73

Commentor State IN

Commentor City SHELBYVILLE

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This law is so complicated, and so specific to the various bodies of water, that there is no way that an average fisherman can remember how big the fish has to be. I go fishing with my children to catch a mess of fish to eat, to just have a little fun. Who are these rules intended to inhibit? Who is out there catching so many fish, that you have to protect the species? Make special rules for the tournaments, and stop setting standards for the professionals. You've already ruined hunting for the meat-hunters in favor of the horn-hunters, and now you're trying to ruin recreational fishing, in favor of tournament fishing. I hardly hunt any more, and I guess I'll stick to fishing in ponds, for panfish.

Time stamp 09/01/2011 09:30:48 AM

Commentor Name Aaron Krider

Commentor County 2

Commentor State IN

Commentor City fort wayne

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment finally!

as for the northern part of the state.. there is prime habitat for the growth of a super smallmouth fishery. The St Joe supports a great smallie fishery but the added protection is long overdue. the use of a slot limit will still let the sportsman keep some for the table and support recruitment from the remaining stock.

i'd say 16" and 1 fish a day would be better but i am happy with the slot!!

Time stamp 09/01/2011 01:10:21 PM

Commentor Name MIitchell Hayes

Commentor County 25

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Rochester

Commentor Organization Hoosier Pro Tournaments

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am against this proposal. It may be ok on certain rivers or streams but not all rivers or streams. A survey of a river / stream should be done before placing this proposal rule on it.

Time stamp 09/02/2011 06:41:21 AM

Commentor Name Todd Muncy

Commentor County 26

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Francisco

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I fish the Ohio River several times a year in bass tournaments. This rule would essentially kill tournament fishing on the Ohio. It is hard enough to catch 12" fish and almost impossible to find more than 1 or 2 over 15". We release all of our fish so it is not an issue of bass tournaments killing fish. I have never seen a fisherman target bass for the skillet in the river.

If the goal is to grow bigger smallmouth in specific rivers and streams then designate those specific areas as having a slot limit but do not interfere with the Ohio River.

Thanks

Time stamp 09/02/2011 11:07:38 AM

Commentor Name SETH BROWN

Commentor County 65

Commentor State IN

Commentor City MOUNT VERNON

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I object to the proposed change due to the following. I am an avid tournament angler which spends lots of time each year bass fishing on the ohio river in several different pools. The current size limit of 12" is in my opinion the adequate size for tournament standards. 80-90% of the fish I catch on the river falls between the 12-15" mark. Rarely do we catch large numbers of fish over the 15" mark. I think this change would not only make the bass tournament organizations pull out of the indiana region, but have a financial impact on the cities that support these events. This rule may be applicable to those catching the black bass to keep, but feel a exception to the rule could be made for tournament situations as these fish are catch and release. I understand the need to protect certain year class fish and the interest of the black bass population. I also understand my taxes, fishing license, and boat registration I pay every year have percentages going to DNR or conservation of our resources. I hope the committee will evaluate this further before making this change. I think if you survey the tournament organizations (FLW Outdoors, Hoosier open tournaments, Indiana Bass Federation, etc) and the anglers you will find that this will negatively affect the sport fishing community in Indiana.

Time stamp 09/02/2011 11:49:36 AM

Commentor Name Brian Campbell

Commentor County 92

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Churubusco

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Fantastic idea for the slot limits on streams. My only suggestion would be to limit to a single trophy larger than 15 inches. I frequently fish in the Elkhart River by Ligonier and believe small streams like that would benefit, although I don't know how many bass are removed. I am strictly catch and release on all waters when bass fishing.

I will continue to support more stringent regulations for harvest of bass: temporary/permanent slot limits per lake (Shriner Lake in Whitley Co. is loaded with small bass) to manage fish size, catch and release for bass during spawn, trophy lakes with 18" or greater harvest size.

Thanks for continued efforts to improve our fishing in Indiana.

Time stamp 09/03/2011 02:46:22 AM

Commentor Name Byron Hughes

Commentor County 59

Commentor State IN

Commentor City French Lick

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am against changing Black Bass in streams to a slot limit. 5 Smallmouth and Spotted Bass is not to many to take from our streams. Let people eat fish if they want to.

Time stamp 09/03/2011 10:16:34 AM

Commentor Name Allen boyd

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Salem

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think you should leave well enough alone. The fishing on the Ohio river and tributaries is the best it has ever been, and every time the IDNR has anything to do with a fishery it ends up worse. I.E. Hardy lake Starve hallow and Monroe.

Time stamp 09/06/2011 08:58:21 AM

Commentor Name gary durbin

Commentor County 22

Commentor State IN

Commentor City georgetown

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This is great news. I've seen the results in Blue River, the quality of the fishing has been improved. Why stop here ? I'd like to see the limit reduced to one and barbless hooks only used. Any fish that fights like that "ole Brown Bass" deserves to be protected, thank you Gary Durbin

Time stamp 09/06/2011 12:44:20 PM

Commentor Name Steven Hays

Commentor County 74

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Rockport

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I find this proposed regulation change to be damaging to Indiana bass tournaments. If the proposal would be put into law, the quality and quantity of bass tournaments on Indiana waterways would decline. With that decline, the state would lose valuable tax money associated with the operation and support of such tournaments. Bass tournaments can bring large amounts of money to local communities, especially along the Ohio River. This rule would cause large regional tournaments and even perhaps national tournaments to change the tournament venue to another state. While the proposal would indeed promote healthier bass fisheries, there should be

a subsection excluding bass tournaments who utilize only catch and release, as all of those fish are returned to the waterway. This would both promote healthy Indiana bass fisheries as well as promote tournament series around the state. Simply put, this proposal is a good idea for the harvesting of black bass, but should exclude bass tournaments that utilize only catch and release, which would promote more bass fishing tournaments in the state of Indiana due to the higher quantity of bigger black bass.

Time stamp 09/13/2011 10:53:40 AM

Commentor Name Jerry Lee Rinehart

Commentor County 3

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Columbus

Commentor Organization private citizen

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I support the proposed rule to manage black bass in Indiana rivers and streams.

I am an avid Indiana river/stream smallmouth sport fisherman. We are very fortunate to have some nice smallmouth fisheries. They are ,however, not abundant and are prone to harm by aggressive fishing pressure(among other things). I think the proposed rule is the best compromise to allow some harvesting of fish and still protect the fishery for the future.

I thank you for your interest in wisely managing this enjoyable natural resource.

Time stamp 09/13/2011 12:31:08 PM

Commentor Name Mark Bennett

Commentor County 21

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Connersville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Those of us who fish in the river don't need more regulations, and in this case, a tape measure and regulation book, to be able to enjoy our pastime of fishing. I have a mark on my pole to verify if a bass is 12 inches or not and it's easy to gauge. But with this new proposal, it just adds an additional burden when we're trying to enjoy the outdoors. Let's not go down the road like other states where you have to carry a map and regulation book so you're not in violation of game laws that vary from river to river and county to county. Please do not vote for this new hassle for sportsmen.

Time stamp 09/14/2011 01:05:51 PM

Commentor Name Dan E. Flynn

Commentor County 27

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Marion

Commentor Organization N/A

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Excellent idea, should proceed as soon as possible

Time stamp 09/25/2011 03:04:17 AM

Commentor Name Brad Moser

Commentor County 22

Commentor State IN

Commentor City New Albany
Commentor Organization First River City Bass Masters
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)
Comment Hello DNR,

I am writing in response to the proposed rule change for the black bass population. As President of First River City Bass Masters and an avid angler on the Ohio River, this rule change has my organizations attention as well as every other bass club's attention. I fish the Ohio River +30 Times Per Year and I keep zero black bass, as I practice the catch and release program. This is standard practice amongst 95% of all bass fishermen especially in the Ohio River. I'd also like to say 90% off all the bass I catch come from a creek or tributary of the Ohio River. And of that 90%, I'd estimate 50% come from a creek in Indiana.

This rule change will impact every bass tournament on the Ohio River with access to Indiana Creeks.

If a bass tournament is launched out of Indiana, it is sactioned by Indiana Law. This means this rule impacts every bass tournament hosted in Indiana on the Ohio River.

We can not have a tournament with this rule as stated in the details.

I'd think there needs to be dicussion on the impact this rule will have economy of Lawrenceburg, Tell City, Jeffersonville, and Evansville. I stay approximately 12 times at the Holiday Inn in Tell City at \$80/Night and I spend roughly \$150 each weekend dining and shopping in Tell City each of those weekends. That is \$2,760 each year I spend in Tell City. If we multiply that by 100's of other anglers, we can quickly see the impact this will have on the local businesses if this rule is go into effect. The bass tournaments on the Ohio River will cease or will move to Kentucly.

I have requested a public hear in the south and have not gotten a reponse????? Can we have a public hearing in Tell City? What about Jeffersonville? What about Lawrenceburg?

The Perry County Chamber of Commerce sure would be interested in the threat to the local economy, Perry Marine is extremely concerned and will be writing a petition on the proposed rule change. I guarantee it!

Sincerely,

Brad Moser
 President, First River City Bass Masters
Time stamp 09/26/2011 07:22:03 AM

Commentor Name Linda Lytle
Commentor County 39
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Madison
Commentor Organization Madison CVB
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment We were distressed to learn of the proposed rule on black bass fishing requirements. Our community host several fishing tournaments on the Ohio River and it's tributaries. This ruling would mean losing those sources of income to our communities.

I'm sure the intent is not to remove income from small communities and reallocate to the state, but since they could only fish on state reservoirs that would be the outcome. Some would probably move tournaments out of state which is even more of a hardship.

Our organizations and local fisherman are opposed to this proposed rule change.

Time stamp 10/03/2011 08:51:24 AM

Commentor Name Jenny Eggenpiller

Commentor County 39

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Madison

Commentor Organization City of Madison

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Our city benefits greatly from the traffic that the 4 Bass fishing tournaments we hold each year creates. This rule would destroy these tournaments and hurt our local economy.

Time stamp 10/07/2011 06:36:43 AM

Commentor Name William D. Dillon

Commentor County 40

Commentor State IN

Commentor City North Vernon

Commentor Organization Dove and Dillon, P.C.- Bass Fisherman

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment My name is William Dillon, and I am an attorney from North Vernon, Indiana. The rule change in regards to Black Bass in our rivers and streams was recently brought to my attention.

As an avid bass tournament fisherman, I was immediately concerned about the proposed legislation. If adopted as written, the proposed rule would all but stop tournament fishing on the Ohio river. Catching a fish over 15 inches is rare, and weighing in fish under 12 inches would prove pointless. Tournament fishing is a very popular activity and tournaments on the Ohio river are very popular events. By eliminating these venues it will lead to increased fishing pressure on our resevoirs as all tournaments would have to be held at these locations.

There will also be a huge detriment to the towns that house fishermen during these tournaments. Tournaments bring in one hundred to two hundred anglers in a weekend. These fishermen stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, and they put a lot of money in these local economies.

Finally, these tournaments and their anglers are families and friends. I have been fishing on the Ohio river in tournaments with my father for twenty years. Some of my greatest memories on the water are these tournaments. To take this opportunity away from families is not right. I hope one day to take my future children to the river and to pass this on to them. The only real question is how do we resolve the issue and still allow tournament fishing?

My proposed solutions would still allow the rule to exist to help promote the growth and health of black bass in our rivers and streams. I have two proposals. The first proposal would exempt

the Ohio river and the tributaries ten miles up from the Ohio river. This would protect the other streams and rivers, while still allowing tournament fishing. My second proposal would require that tournaments request and receive an exemption allowing tournament fisherman to keep fish over twelve inches in tournament competition only. These fish are subsequently released after they are weighed in so this would have little to no impact on the fish population. The second proposal is used in other states to allow tournament fisherman to bring in fish where slot limits exist.

I am quite certain I will not be the only one to comment on this proposed change. Please take my concerns into consideration. There is no greater friend of our streams and waterways as the tournament fisherman. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

William Dillon
Attorney at Law

Time stamp 10/11/2011 06:50:39 PM

Commentor Name Mark J. Dove

Commentor County 40

Commentor State IN

Commentor City North Vernon

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am a staunch supporter of slot limits in certain situations. As an example, the slot limit on Patoka Lake, in large part, took a miserable fishery and turned it into the best fishery in the state or at least in Southern Indiana.

However, I believe that the proposed change to 312 IAC 9-7-6 will create an unintended consequence that will totally disrupt a large segment of Indiana fisherman and more importantly will be financially devastating to several Indiana cities and counties. I am speaking of those of us who fish bass tournaments on the Ohio River and its embayments and tributaries as well as the locales who host these events.

I have been fishing bass tournaments on the Ohio River since 1986. During the years I have fished a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 11 tournaments per year. The cities that have hosted the majority of the events are Tell City and Lawrenceburg. However, I have also fished tournaments hosted by Madison, Jeffersonville and Evansville. The sizes of these tournaments have ranged in size from 50 boats (100 fishermen) to 185 boats (370 fishermen). Virtually all of the contestants in these tournaments sleep, eat, buy fuel and fishing tackle at the tournament site. The largest tournament organization that conducts tournaments in the state of Indiana is FLW Outdoors from Gilbertsville, Kentucky. Their economic impact studies show that a one day, 200 boat tournament will bring in excess of \$200,000 into a local economy. There are several other expenses that are typically incurred by a tournament fisherman that are not included in that figure. Four of these tournaments were held in Indiana in 2011. See attached exhibit "A".

The Tell City Bureau of Towns, who I am sure you will hear from, estimates that 5,000 tournament fisherman per year utilize the motels, restaurants, gas stations and other vendors in that city. The estimated economic benefit is approximately \$16,000,000 per year.

All of this now begs the question, "What does the proposed slot limit have to do with the bass tournaments on the Ohio and its tributaries?" The answer is that virtually all of the fish typically weighed in by tournament anglers fall within the proposed slot.

I would estimate that at least 80% and probably a greater percentage of all tournaments creels are comprised of fish that would fall within the slot. While luck is a factor in bass fishing tournaments it is not the major factor. However, implementation of the slot limit would make these tournaments purely luck based upon which contestants could be lucky enough to catch one or two 15 inch fish. The tournament creels would greatly diminish and the participation in the tournaments would inevitably decline to the point that few, if any, tournaments would be held on the Ohio. Thus, the devastating economic impact alluded to above. I am certain that the NRC never considered this result when the change in the rule was considered and then proposed. I believe there are two rather simple solutions to this dilemma if the NRC will revisit the proposed change.

First, the rule could be changed to exempt tributaries of the Ohio within 10 miles of the Ohio River proper. I have traveled by boat in every Indiana tributary from the Ohio to Illinois state borders. I know that 10 miles is the greatest distance that can be traveled by bass boat at any fishable river stage. If a flood made it possible to travel further, a tournament would most likely be cancelled.

Secondly, a permit could be issued to tournament organizers exempting their contestants from compliance with the slot limit while competing. As I am sure you are aware, all such tournaments are "catch and release." This is the option that was chosen by the State of Florida when a similar slot limit implemented by that state killed their tournament participation causing the state to suffer gigantic financial losses. Having fished many tournaments in Florida I can say that their permit system works extremely well.

Thank you for consideration of my position.

Mark J. Dove
225 South State Street
North Vernon, Indiana 47265

812-346-3030

Time stamp 10/12/2011 08:57:52 AM

Commentor Name Brad Moser

Commentor County 22

Commentor State IN

Commentor City New Albany

Commentor Organization First River City Bassmasters

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment October 12, 2011 - I am disgusted at the lack of response from IDNR on all of my requests sent in via this comment board. I have been notified from attendees at last night's public hearing in Spencer Indiana that this rule is going through within a week unless there a massive public outcry against it.

Why have I not received a return call or email? If there's been no public outcry, I should have received a call or email from IDNR.

Sincerely,

Brad Moser
President - First River City Bassmasters
(502) 644-2271
Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:04:46 AM

Commentor Name Jason Hartz
Commentor County 87
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Newburgh
Commentor Organization
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)
Comment I would like to voice my opinion that this rule should not be expanded to include the Ohio river. This rule will discourage fishing and tournament angling from the Ohio River and stifle an already down economy of cities and towns along the river that depend on these tournaments.

Jason Hartz
Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:10:42 AM

Commentor Name Brad Moser
Commentor County 22
Commentor State IN
Commentor City New Albany
Commentor Organization First River City Bassmasters
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)
Comment We need a public hearing down south.
Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:17:49 AM

Commentor Name Laura Hartz
Commentor County 87
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Newburgh
Commentor Organization
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)
Comment To whom it may concern,
Please take note that I do not support the proposed limit rule changes to black bass in the Ohio river. This rule will bring huge economic hardship to communities all along the Ohio river
Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:23:52 AM

Commentor Name Eric Hardesty
Commentor County 7
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Nineveh
Commentor Organization Indiana Bass Federation
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)
Comment I believe this new law would be a good thing for the state except for the Ohio River and its tributaries. This will greatly reduce the number of harvestable fish on the Ohio River. I also feel that before any changes need to be made for the bass population on the Ohio, the carp population needs to be brought under control. If the current carp explosion continues, there

probably won't need to be any size limits on bass because there won't be many left.

Thank you,

Eric Hardesty

Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:33:52 AM

Commentor Name Charles Hardin

Commentor County 82

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Evansville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Please do not pass this change on Black Bass for the Ohio River. This is a horrible law and will push all tournaments to be held in KY due to this change.

Have there been any studies/surveys done to prove that this would help?

This just seems like another knee jerk reaction by Indiana DNR with no information on how it would work.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:42:28 AM

Commentor Name Keith Hartz

Commentor County 82

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Evansville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I do not agree with this proposed change to the black bass size limit. I frequently fish in tournaments on the Ohio river and this would be very detrimental to this activity. Please leave it as it is.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 09:48:59 AM

Commentor Name Thomas H Fleenor

Commentor County 82

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Evansville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This is a ridiculous proposed rule change. Your fishing license revenue in the State of Indiana will be non existent.

I would be interested to see the data that leads the DNR to believe this change is required.

Kentucky has a competent DNR, do they agree?

Time stamp 10/12/2011 10:35:46 AM

Commentor Name Chris Myers

Commentor County 39

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Madison

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This particular Rule would most definitely provide a negative economic impact, on any community along the Ohio River in Indiana, where Bass Tournaments are normally held. Bass Fishing is a multi-billion dollar industry, where Bass Fishing Events and those who participate in such, pour tens-of-thousands of dollars into the respective geographic area. A slot limit would force Bass Event Coordinators to choose other physical locations away from the Ohio River for their Tournament Events. Purchasing of Gas, Food and Lodging are just a few of the parameters that would suffer greatly along the Ohio River and would stand to lose precious dollars, in a very difficult economy. Please Do Not approve this Rule!

Time stamp 10/12/2011 11:31:44 AM

Commentor Name Steven Alan Sendelweck

Commentor County 31

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Ramsey

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am all in favor of protecting black bass in streams in Indiana. However, there needs to be an exception made when it comes to navigable tributaries of the Ohio River. I would suggest either making an exception to the rule in the case of catch and release tournaments, or having the rule not apply to tributaries of the Ohio within 5 miles of the confluence of the stream and the river. Bass tournaments are a huge source of revenue and recreation along the Ohio River, and applying this rule to those areas will virtually eliminate tournament fishing on the river. This will cause tournament organizations to move their events to the already overcrowded reservoirs in Indiana, or cause them to go out of state and take their money with them.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 11:35:06 AM

Commentor Name Matt Abbott

Commentor County 88

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Salem

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I live on the Middle Fork of the blue river and fish it a lot from April to June and I don't see where it is helping any at all with what I am seeing. I think you need to look at KY and see what they are doing because they do a great job in their state to make great Fishing!! It may also hurt Indiana on any big Bass tournaments ever coming to our State. The Ohio is about the only place we could ever have a BASS or FLW pro tournament here in our State. I hope this will not be one more law that hurts Fishermen.. Thank you

Time stamp 10/12/2011 11:47:08 AM

Commentor Name Travis Andres

Commentor County 22

Commentor State IN

Commentor City New Albany

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I understand the goal of the proposed rule change, but I do not agree with the proposed rule as it pertains to the Ohio River. The rule should be exempt on the Ohio River since

the Ohio River currently has a 12" limit on all Black Bass by both Indiana and Kentucky. It should remain that way until the neighboring state also changes to the same size limit. Otherwise, there will be much confusion as to whether a fish within the 12" to 15" size actually came from Indiana or Kentucky waters. I purchase licenses for both states and fish both waters as do many anglers, especially tournament fisherman, from each state. This will be an almost impossible rule to enforce when a Conservation Officer checks a livewell and asks where they caught the 12" to 15" fish, the angler will just say "on the Kentucky side." I support the rule as it pertains to Indiana, but varying size limits for neighboring states on the same waterway as it will be on the Ohio River is not a good idea.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 12:17:39 PM

Commentor Name Thomas J. Todd

Commentor County 47

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bedford

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I feel that if the Size of the Black Bass is changed to less then 12in and greater then 15in it will greatly hurt the population on most rivers and streams. I feel that the 12in size has greatly help the size of Spotted and Largemouth Bass on the Eastfrok of the white river. We Bass fish it at least one time a week and have seen a huge differents in the size and numbers of bass. So if you change this it will hurt the river steam and population and we don't take and eat them anyway...

Time stamp 10/12/2011 01:06:36 PM

Commentor Name Brandon Snack

Commentor County 47

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bedford

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment If this law goes into effect it could really effect the ways that tournaments are ran on these bodies of water. Living in Bedford we have alot of tournaments on not only the White but also the Ohio Rivers. So if this law goes into effect, it is going to really effect us tournament fisherman. There will be hardly no weight/points to be had on these bodies. A person could come in with there limit and and have less then 2 pounds of weight. What fun is that. The state wants people to go out and enjoy the state of Indiana, But with laws like this who would want to. No fun to fish the rivers. And in my opinion the rivers are some of the best, most beautiful, and fun fishing in the state.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 01:09:34 PM

Commentor Name Terry L Dillon

Commentor County 32

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Danville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I have fished for black bass on the Ohio River and tributaries since 1976. Most of my

fishing is in bass tournaments conducted by various organizations. I oppose the proposed black bass slot limit on the Ohio River and tributaries for several reasons.

While I do not oppose slot limits where they may do some good, I do not believe it would have a positive effect on the bass population in the Ohio River. Overpopulation is not a problem. The limiting factors, as I see them, are lack of spawning habitat and the increasing population of big head and silver carp. Most of the fish are forced to spawn on top of stumps and there just aren't that many suitable stumps.

I will not fish a tournament with a slot limit such as the one proposed here. I cannot imagine throwing back 14 inch fish and trying to replace it with an 11 inch fish. Nor can I imagine catching 5 fish over 15 inches and having to throw back three of them and try to replace them with 11 inch fish. If that is the case, I will just fish in another state.

This year I spent 16 nights in Tell City, Indiana and 5 nights in Lawrenceburg, Indiana related to tournament fishing. The motel cost averaged \$80 per night, and I spent money for gas, supplies, and meals. Most of the tournaments have 150 to 200 other fishermen doing the same. Obviously a major impact on a local economy. Given the current state of the economy, why would anyone want to take that money away from an area that is already economically depressed?

While I do not know if the proposed rule would help rivers and streams in northern or central Indiana, I am convinced it would not help fishing on the Ohio River and its tributaries. I would hate to see the economic damage to an area already struggling and I sure do not want to give up an activity I have enjoyed for some thirty-five years.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 01:13:38 PM

Commentor Name Rick Sheeks

Commentor County 29

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Noblesville

Commentor Organization 4R Rod & Reel Repair

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I disagree with this rule change. As an long time avid Bass tournament fisherman this makes our current rule of a 5 bass limit of 14inches almost impossible to reach now let alone to get a respectable competetive weight to weight in for a tournament by changing it to this length of less than 12 inches and two over 15inches? This would not have to be done if there had been a regular stocking program yearly for largemouth,smallmouth and spotted bass in what little fishable water we have in the state of Indiana. We put way too much emphasis on stocking muskies and walleye all over this state? Its time to start stocking in abundance the other species. We Bass fisherman are not a minority. Thankyou for your time.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 02:29:35 PM

Commentor Name Todd Lahey

Commentor County 15

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Lawrenceburg

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Please do not implement this rule. It will make tuning our tournaments out of Tanners Creek on the Ohio River very difficult. We fish in three states waters and bring a lot of revenue to the local tackle shops and gas stations.

Thanks

Time stamp 10/12/2011 02:33:07 PM

Commentor Name Benjamin N Dietzel

Commentor County 29

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Fishers

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I feel that this rule is incorrectly titled as (Black Bass) refers to all bass not just Smallmouth Bass. In addition, as a tournament fisherman this will essentially put an end to bass fishing tournaments on any river in the state. I also believe that you should consider the economic impact that this would have on local communities. I personally fish river based tournaments 4 or 5 times a year mostly at Rocky Point and Tanners Creek on the Ohio River and the St. Joe at Maggies Landing and 6 Span Bridge. An easy estimate of what I spend in an average tournament weekend for lodging, meals, and gas would be \$350.

Time stamp 10/12/2011 06:42:26 PM

Commentor Name john royal

Commentor County 28

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bloomfield

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The Ohio River system over the past 5 years has been fishing better than any time in the last 30 years. Both Largemouth and smallmouth species are doing better than I ever remember. Why do you want to implement this rule change now. I am strongly opposed to such a change. Maybe if our IDNR would spend some money stocking bass instead of non-native species such as walleye, muskie, stripers, etc we would not be having this discussion.

We do not need this change!!

Time stamp 10/12/2011 07:17:11 PM

Commentor Name Chad J. Miller

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Zionsville

Commentor Organization WILDCAT CREEK OUTFITTERS

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The state of Indiana has become a progressive model for the rest of the Midwest. In a few short years it has instituted regs that have improved Smallmouth fisheries in the Blue and Sugar Creek. We guide Sugar Creek and I personally live 10 minutes from Sugar, living my entire life in Montgomery County. We have seen a dramatic effect in the quality of Smallmouth

our clients catch on a daily basis. We have 3 guides using Sugar and I know of 2 others that work the creek as well, bringing the total number to 5. We also guide the Tippecanoe River and again 5 guides work that river as well. The White river has at least 6 guides I know of as well.

With improved regulation on rivers state wide the economic impact from out of state anglers is enormous. The state has somewhere around 35,000 river miles and great number of those creeks and rivers will no doubt see drastic improvement in quality of fishing. The Blue has no question benefited from the 12 to 15 inch size limit.

Any delay in passing this rule only delays the economic impact on the state. We know for sure, considering the number of guides who work Sugar, Tippy and the White, that we can have many more trips from guides around the state.

I am thankful that we no have a state that realizes the importance of our wild fisheries and gives them priority. The Smallmouth is to Indiana what the McCloud Rainbow is to California; OUR FISH. Lets continue to improve it's wild native range.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 04:05:21 AM

Commentor Name Fred Mathes

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State KY

Commentor City Brandenburg

Commentor Organization HOOISER HILLS BASSMASTERS

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I VOTE NO FOR THIS CHANGE

Time stamp 10/13/2011 05:04:39 AM

Commentor Name Darin Powell

Commentor County 47

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bedford

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I believe the new proposed size limit for black bass is a rule that simply does not need to be implemented. The goal of this rule is to increase the number of smallmouth bass. Why not stock the rivers and streams with smallmouth bass? And more importantly, is information out there that says the smallmouth population has decreased? Smallmouths do not live in every section of water in every river. Imposing a rule on black bass size in sections of river that do not have smallmouth is simply not needed.

It is widely believed that the size limit would severely impact tournament bass fishing. Tournament bass fishing brings in a lot of money for the state and local businesses, and it is my belief, as a tournament fisherman, that interest would greatly drop on rivers and streams.

This rule is simply not needed. Common sense says this rule would increase smallmouth population by only a couple percent, if at all. Why not impose a restriction on just the number and size of smallmouth?

I could go on for many pages, but I am trying to keep this short and to the point. But one point I want to make is, when the state is facing serious budget issues and shortages, why would a new size limit be imposed that is going to cost a lot of taxpayer money? I'm no economist, but I'm sure there are hundreds of Indiana public access sites on our rivers and streams. I'm sure there will need to be new "signage" posted at every one of them informing the public of the new size limit, as well as paying the workers to actually place those new signs. I don't know how much this will cost, but I'm sure it will be well into the hundreds of thousands. And, hopefully this size limit (if passed) will not be imposed for the rest of time, so those workers are going to be paid to go back out to the public access sites and switch the signs back at some point. Seems as though the money could be spent in a better way. Why not take 10% of the money to implement this new restrictive rule, and use that money to restock the sections of rivers that support smallmouth?

There are several other options to this proposed rule, please explore them and do not pass this new restriction.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 07:34:50 AM

Commentor Name Roger Dunaway

Commentor County 31

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Corydon

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think that it would be unfair for some one to fish a tournament on the Ohio River that had put in a Indiana ramp and fished in Kentucky creeks would not be able to weigh in the fish that they caught between 12-15".

I guess that we could start putting in ramps in Kentucky and fish creeks in KY. They could probably use the economic help there as well as the money that has been spent in Indiana.

Then all the KY fishermen will not have to worry about purchasing a Indiana Non Resident fishing license any more.

I know this sounds far fetched but we have nearly no tournaments in Indiana Lakes since the new permit system has been implemented.

.

Many have done this.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 09:33:50 AM

Commentor Name Beverly Minto

Commentor County 62

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Tell City

Commentor Organization Perry County CVB

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The reduction of size for slot limits for tributaries leading into the Ohio River would be devastating for Perry County. with 5000 anglers in tournaments each year the revenue lost

would be staggering.

Per Angler Weekend Expenses total per year are 3,360 = 16,800,000.00. These are numbers given by Brad Moser, First River City Bassmasters, New Albany, In.

In Florida a exempt card is given to tournament fisherman during the tournament time. Other exceptions would be to go 10 miles into the tributaries leading into the Ohio River. i know other communities along the Ohio River have the same issues. i hope this can be addressed do to the extreme importance for our county.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 11:50:28 AM

Commentor Name Andrew Wright

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I'm sure this slot limit idea has good intentions, but there are some very significant fishing tournaments (that do everything they can to ensure safe, life release of all bass caught) on the Ohio River that would effectively have to be cancelled if this goes into effect.

That's not only a significant loss of recreational opportunities (and for some people like myself, fishing a tourney or two is the only reason I buy a license) as well as the negative impact to our state's tourism industry. I have fished a couple BFL (from the FLW organization) events before and it's amazing how large the percentage of participants that are from out of state turns out to be.

Please consider amending so that live release tournaments are exempted from this restriction.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 12:45:54 PM

Commentor Name Bryan Snyder

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Cincinnati

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Changing the limit on black bass in the State of Indiana will have a drastic negative impact. I have grown up in an around Lawrenceburg, Indiana and am an avid bass angler. I regularly fish put my boat in at ramps in Tanners Creek, Patriot, Bryant, and Turtle Creeks. I participate in tournament where Indiana creeks are fished by numerous anglers. If the new rule creating a slot for 12 to 15" fish is adopted, I would guarantee most current tournaments (especially the ones from Tanners Creek) will find other places to fish. The loss of these anglers, and the money they spend in restaurants, shops, and gas stations in the area, could be devastating to the local economies along the river. I, and many others I know, would no longer fish or visit Indiana waters along the Ohio River.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 12:56:32 PM

Commentor Name Thomas Alva Foster

Commentor County 84

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Terre Haute

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The 12-15 inch slot limit will completely take the bass tourneys away from the Ohio River cities. Most bass weighed in these tournaments fall within the proposed slot. If Bass Tournaments and their economic impact mean anything to Indiana and it's local cities, this proposal should be turned down

Time stamp 10/13/2011 12:57:43 PM

Commentor Name Mitchell Hayes

Commentor County 25

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Rochester

Commentor Organization Hoosier Pro Tournaments / US Anglers Choice Tournaments

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The St. Joe River in Indiana does not need the proposed slot limit. The fishery supports several bass tournaments through out the year. The fishery there is very health. I am sure there are those streams that need the slot limit, again the St. Joe River is not one of them.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 12:59:16 PM

Commentor Name Chris Kaiser

Commentor County 29

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Carmel

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am very opposed to this regulation change and I also think it is incredibly not well thought out. Instead of a slot limit why wouldn't you just raise the legal keeper size for rivers and streams. It makes no sense what so ever and it will hurt the fish population much more than help if people can keep smaller than 12" fish. I am a tournament bass fisherman, but I am also a fisheries student at Purdue and I feel like this is a very poorly thought out plan. I would love an answer as to why we would allow bass under the already minimum 12" to be kept. Also, if you were to allow only two over sized fish to be kept this will have a very negative impact on tournament fishing in the state, which is a huge part of certain local economies. I really hope this regulation proposal is thought over again and changed because this would be a deterrent to our fisheries.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:01:59 PM

Commentor Name Darrel Knies

Commentor County 32

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Avon

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment As an avid tournament fishierman for the past twenty five years I have spent a lot of time and money fishing the Indiana span of the Ohio River and it's tributaries, which I understand the change will effect. I do not agree with this proposal in that the slot limit will greatly decrease the amount of fish being weighed in at tournaments and will eventually decrease

participation. End being, many of the local businesses along the Ohio River (motels and hotels, restaurants, groceries, marina;s ect) will be greatly impacted when participation decreases because of the new ruling, should it pass. I think that more should be considered before moving forward with this rule change. Thank you

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:04:07 PM

Commentor Name george david pross

Commentor County 34

Commentor State IN

Commentor City russiaville

Commentor Organization TBF

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I believe that this rule will negatively affect buisness and the fishing community. This rule will cause a reduction in fishing the areas affected and will cost moneys that would otherwise be spent in those communitys. Bass tournaments bring a lot of local money and with this rule it will eliminate that. This is to broad of a rule covering to broad of an area.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:06:02 PM

Commentor Name Eldon Crabtree

Commentor County 33

Commentor State IN

Commentor City New Castle

Commentor Organization Indiana Bass Federation

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I have 2 major concerns about the new proposed rules (1) Tournament anglers that fish tournaments on the Ohio River have access to waters on the Kentucky side of the river where the legal size limit is 12".No tournament organization will allow anglers to weigh in bass under 12" so therefore the rule would only aloow you to weigh 2 bass.(2) The IDNR over many past years has done everything possible to destroy bass tournaments in this state.Take all the states in central United States and fishermen travel there for tournaments and vacations but very few want to come to Indiana because our fisheries are very poor.IDNR needs to wake up and promote our fisheries and stock fish that outside states anglers would come and visit intead fo calling us the dead seas.Stocking Walleye and Muskies won't bring numbers of anglers here.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:12:26 PM

Commentor Name David M. McDonald

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization Indiana Bass Federation

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Being a member of the Indiana Bass Federation, FLW Outdoors,and sales Rep for Ranger Boats, and Stratos Boats,and an avid Bass Fisherman. I Strongly disagree this this proposed rule change. This rule change would stop all tournament fishing on the all Rivers! This could be tried in smaller streams to prove that it will work. I don't believe there is that many small mouth or Ky. bass over 15" now!

I also believe that you intentionally held these meetings where they are, so no one form the Capital city area can go show their feelings! This decision should be made by the people who

fish these waters!

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:16:12 PM

Commentor Name Robert Pereira

Commentor County 45

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Schererville

Commentor Organization Marco Bass Masters

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I do a lot of fishing in tournaments and practicing on Indiana Rivers each year and a slot limit would be very detrimental to the fisheries and cities around them. It would become to difficult to catch fish which could be weighed in for tournaments. If this were to pass, all those fisheries and surrounding communities would lose out on revenue. Tournaments will not be held on those waters. The DNR and State would be making a costly miistake for those who rely on that revenue.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:28:39 PM

Commentor Name Curtis Dowell

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Paris

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment In regards to the 12-15 inch slot limit...I do not fish Indiana waters, so this proposed legislation does not impact me directly. But with that said, I personally do not believe a slot limit impact and or approve the fish population. I have seen slot limits placed on some Ohio waters and have found that it does impact the quality/size of the fish, but reduces the bass population and or does not improve it. I would consider a bass stocking program for inland lakes. Unfortunately the Ohio river is different because bass are running out of area to spawn due to sediment filling in feeder creeks and other back waters where bass have spawned to get out of the main river current. If more of these areas would be available, a bass stocking program in the river would be successful. But it is my personal opinion that slot limits do not effect bass populations.

Thank you...

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:28:56 PM

Commentor Name Larry Forrester

Commentor County 53

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Bloomington

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I have been fishing in this state for 40 years and I know hundreds of fisherman and I don't one who keeps bass out of the streams to eat. I'm a tournament bass fisherman , if you pass this there will be several rivers that we won't be able to have tournaments on. This is not only unfair to the tournament fisherman it will also have an adverse effect on the economy of the towns where these tournaments are held. Have you looked at how much revenue having a

tournament generates for a community? If not you should. Even though tournament fisherman release all their fish they will suffer from this rule change and so will many others. Thanks, Larry

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:35:15 PM

Commentor Name Earl R Hite

Commentor County 50

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Plymouth

Commentor Organization N/A

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I am against this proposal. It would effect bass tournaments on several river systems. If we need more reproduction maybe we should go back to stocking programs. There are a number of hatcheries not in use. It might create some real jobs. God knows we more than pay for our fishing!

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:46:38 PM

Commentor Name casey zarembo

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City brecksville

Commentor Organization FLW Fisherman

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment i'm a out of state tournament fisherman and travel to at least 6 different states annually .we take care of bass and do not kill them ,stats will show over 95% live . when the rules are too tough we'll go elsewhere . tournament fisherman spend lots when they travel . your old rule is pretty tough .must be a way to compromise .doesn't any one practice catch and release ? your instate tournament fisherman are travelling to neighboring states too be able to fish and spending their money out of state .just like out of state residents travel to your casino's ? i support the FLW we conserve and recycle bass for all to enjoy

Time stamp 10/13/2011 01:57:21 PM

Commentor Name Karl Snyder

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Cincinnati

Commentor Organization Kentucky Bass Federation

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I fish five to ten tournaments a month on the Ohio River from Madison to Tanners Creek in Lawrenceburg. In all these tournament this year, I did not weigh in a bass over 15 inches. The KBF State Championship launched from Craigs Creek, and I do not believe the 70 anglers weighed in one bass over 15 inches. The Kentucky Bass Federation and the Adopt A Bass fund have worked together to stock small bass in the Ohio River, including all of the creeks on the Indiana side. A fifteen inch size limit on the Ohio River would kill all tournaments all the way to Rocky Point....from the FLW sponsored BFLs in Indiana and Ohio to the hundreds sponsored by local clubs and organizations. Please help us with habitat restoration and the dredging of the silted in creeks to improve the spawn. Thanks for your concern.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 02:31:56 PM

Commentor Name Scott M Thomas

Commentor County 33

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Mooreland

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment While this rule has good intentions, it would severely hamper the success of tournament fisherman on the Ohio River, where very few 15 inch bass are caught. Tournaments pour a huge amount of dollars in the surrounding communities. Exclude the Ohio River from the rule.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 03:10:13 PM

Commentor Name matt orschell

Commentor County 15

Commentor State IN

Commentor City lawrenceburg

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Do not like this rule for tournaments. It's already to hard to catch a limit in our area.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 03:59:52 PM

Commentor Name Dale Fess

Commentor County 22

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This is a bad rule change .This will cut the income to pepole that depend on tournaments at there city .Please reevaluate this in full light not from a bad voice THANKS DALE FESS

Time stamp 10/13/2011 04:23:04 PM

Commentor Name S. D. Taylor

Commentor County 48

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Anderson

Commentor Organization Concerned Citizen

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I strongly urge you NOT to adopt this proposed rule.

This rule would have a devastating effect on local communities around the state, Communities like Elkhart on the St. Joe River and Tell City along the Ohio River would undoubtedly suffer as the result of the adoption of this rule. Club tournament fisherman like myself spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in these communities. The majority of us are not large tournament trail fisherman. We pay thousands, if not millions, of dollars each year for registration fees, lake enhancement fees, etc., which go in to the State's coffers. In addition, we spend millions of dollars on boats, rods, reels, tackle and other equipment, much of which goes into our local

economy.

Nobody I know wants to spend hundreds of dollars over the course of a weekend on food, fuel, and lodging to weigh in a few small fish.

Where are the studies to support the adoption of this rule? I fished the St. Joe River at Elkhart in July and found the population of keeper sized bass to be quite adequate. I have been told that the same can be said for the Ohio River. I know many local anglers who fish the White River from Daleville on through Lake Indy in Indianapolis with great success.

Why are we not being informed as to who authored this proposed rule? I would not be surprised to learn that this proposed rule is the brainchild (or at least the suggestion) of a landowner along one of Indiana's rivers or streams who, like the landowners on our natural lakes, wants bass fisherman off of "HIS WATER".

Indiana's lakes and streams are our waters too! Bass fisherman like myself deserve to be able to enjoy our rivers and streams without having to contend with needless regulation such as this proposed rule. The 12 inch size limit has worked up until now. To put a slot limit on rivers and streams appears to have no practical benefit other than to drive bass fisherman off of these types of waters.

I believe that it is no accident that this proposed rule change is tucked away in "small business regulation" where it can be moved through the process and adopted without a great deal of notice.

How about devoting some energy to passing legislation that would establish true public access ramps and adequate parking facilities on Geist and Morse Reservoirs? Ramp fees of \$30.00 to launch a boat on the weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day is not the kind of "public access" that was promised when the land was taken to create these playgrounds for the rich.

Please do not pass this rule. It truly makes no sense to do so.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 05:56:42 PM

Commentor Name david Ryberg

Commentor County 15

Commentor State IN

Commentor City lawrenceburg

Commentor Organization HVL Fish & Game Club

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I strongly oppose the proposed rule change creating a 12-15" slot limit on a state-wide basis. In many locales, especially the Ohio river and tributaries, in IN this will have a very negative impact on tournament fishing and thus on the economic activity generated by the tourneys.

This rule change should take into consideration local conditions and impact. not only on the fishery but the regional economics.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 07:12:26 PM

Commentor Name Henry S. Benfield

Commentor County 48

Commentor State AL

Commentor City Anderson

Commentor Organization Aqua Bass Masters

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment My friend Sam Taylor submitted the following comments in regard to the proposed slot limits on Indiana rivers. I am in total agreement with Mr. Taylor and am likewise APPOSED to the proposed new regulation.

Mr. Taylor's commits:

I strongly urge you NOT to adopt this proposed rule.

This rule would have a devastating effect on local communities around the state. Communities like Elkhart on the St. Joe River and Tell City along the Ohio River would undoubtedly suffer as the result of the adoption of this rule. Club tournament fisherman like myself spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in these communities. The majority of us are not large tournament trail fisherman. We pay thousands, if not millions, of dollars each year for registration fees, lake enhancement fees, etc., which go in to the State's coffers. In addition, we spend millions of dollars on boats, rods, reels, tackle and other equipment, much of which goes into our local economy.

Nobody I know wants to spend hundreds of dollars over the course of a weekend on food, fuel, and lodging to weigh in a few small fish.

Where are the studies to support the adoption of this rule? I fished the St. Joe River at Elkhart in July and found the population of keeper sized bass to be quite adequate. I have been told that the same can be said for the Ohio River. I know many local anglers who fish the White River from Daleville on through Lake Indy in Indianapolis with great success.

Why are we not being informed as to who authored this proposed rule? I would not be surprised to learn that this proposed rule is the brainchild (or at least the suggestion) of a landowner along one of Indiana's rivers or streams who, like the landowners on our natural lakes, wants bass fisherman off of "HIS WATER".

Indiana's lakes and streams are our waters too! Bass fisherman like myself deserve to be able to enjoy our rivers and streams without having to contend with needless regulation such as this proposed rule. The 12 inch size limit has worked up until now. To put a slot limit on rivers and streams appears to have no practical benefit other than to drive bass fisherman off of these types of waters.

I believe that it is no accident that this proposed rule change is tucked away in "small business

regulation” where it can be moved through the process and adopted without a great deal of notice.

How about devoting some energy to passing legislation that would establish true public access ramps and adequate parking facilities on Geist and Morse Reservoirs? Ramp fees of \$30.00 to launch a boat on the weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day is not the kind of "public access" that was promised when the land was taken to create these playgrounds for the rich.

Please do not pass this rule. It truly makes no sense to do so.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 07:34:56 PM

Commentor Name Brian Christopher Dolne

Commentor County 82

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Evansville

Commentor Organization American Legacy Fishing Co.

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The efforts to preserve the bass population in rivers and streams are admirable; however, I as well as every other bass fisherman on the Ohio River, agree this would be EXTREMELY devatstating. We host a small series of Saturday and Tuesday night tournaments around Evansville, and have records to show that the weights and fish catches have steadily increased over the past few years. The fishery is getting better every year and does not need a slot limit. At bare minimum, please make the Ohio River an exception. The rules given the bordering states would be a nightmare at best anyway.

I absolutely plead with you not to take this fishery away from us. Tournaments on the Ohio River will essentially be eliminated with this slot limit. Thank you for your time. If you would like the records of our tournament results, feel free to call me at 877-402-6350.

Time stamp 10/13/2011 08:03:03 PM

Commentor Name Jeff Sears

Commentor County 28

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Dayton

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I feel that this would be a detrimant to tournament fishing and I would not fish tournaments or fish in any way in Indiana if this passes

Time stamp 10/13/2011 09:07:01 PM

Commentor Name Anthony Maxwell

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Seven Mile, Ohio

Commentor Organization Ohio BASS Federation

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Please use biologic studies to decide if slot limits would help any given body of

water. A blanket slot limit could have a very detrimental impact on tournaments held on Indiana waters. Having been a member of the Ohio BASS Federation since 1982 I can attest to the economic impact that tournaments have in those areas where tournaments are popular.

I am all for assisting Bass to continue to be a valued resource but not at the expense of local economies, when no studies have proven that the limits would help the fish populations

Time stamp 10/13/2011 09:46:00 PM

Commentor Name Michael A Kramer Sr

Commentor County 71

Commentor State IN

Commentor City South Bend

Commentor Organization member flw outdoors

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I fish in bigger tournaments than the local ones but I enjoy it it is tough enough rule change would drive people away which means less money being spent on gas tackle food in restaurants ramp fees I believe there should be for tournaments a clause if we are going to do this because the fish are released after weigh in what we need is for the locals and up and the fisher men to take better care of the fish if we dont are sport could go away thanks Mike

Time stamp 10/14/2011 03:29:25 AM

Commentor Name Sheldon Roberts

Commentor County 16

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greensburg

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Bad idea creeks to Ohio River should be exempt

Time stamp 10/14/2011 04:05:26 AM

Commentor Name Robert E. Walters

Commentor County 7

Commentor State OH

Commentor City MT. Orab

Commentor Organization Cincinnati Youth Bass

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment While I applaud your desire to improve your black bass , I believe that the amendment would greatly affect the bass tournaments now held in Indiana. These tournaments have a huge following, and bring revenues to all surrounding cities and towns. I believe that increasing the lower scale from 12, to 13 inches , will have the same affect over the long term, without the effect of a slot. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion, Bob Walters

Time stamp 10/14/2011 04:42:13 AM

Commentor Name Chris Burk

Commentor County 24

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Brookville

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I feel the slot limit on black bass would be bad. It would cost the State, towns and business a lot of money due to the loss of tournaments and fishermen fishing these tournaments, especially on the Ohio River. I fish the river regularly and the fishing has gotten better over the past few years. There seems to be more fish coming in to weigh ins and with catch and release policies of tournaments, a high percentage of fish are released, unharmed.

Time stamp 10/14/2011 07:14:30 AM

Commentor Name Bruce Stanley

Commentor County 20

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Middlebury

Commentor Organization Michiana Bass Anglers

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I disagree with this proposed change most of the rivers in indiana only recieve fishing pressure from tournament anglers who release all the fish they catch anyway. Most of the fishermen that catch and keep fish don't even care what size the bass are or what the limit is, and they also know there is not enough officers to enforce the current laws. The only true impact of this ruling will be the financial impact on businesses that depend on the flow of money from tournament anglers.

Time stamp 10/14/2011 09:05:56 AM

Commentor Name Daniel J. Allison

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Cincinnati

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This new regulation will be devastating to the Ohio River communities that support bass tournaments. The Ohio River need a lot more help than a new regulation. Habitat rehab, dredging, and stocking would be a better place to start.

Thank You,

Daniel J. Allison

Time stamp 10/14/2011 09:39:06 AM

Commentor Name Donald F. Hardesty

Commentor County 82

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Evansville

Commentor Organization American Legacy Ohio River Bass Series

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment As Tournament Director for the above mentioned organization I can assure you that this rule is NOT NEEDED. In the past few years the catches and bag limits have been steadily increasing and the area of the river where we fish is probably the worst on the river. I have the records to prove what I claim.

This rule will kill tournament fishing on the Ohio River. There are areas on the river where this

would be devastating to the economy of these areas.

Our group has approximately 14 tournaments a year. All on the Ohio River except when the river is too high to safely fish. We spend considerable dollars on these tournaments.

I urge you to reconsider this rule and leave the rules as they are. If it ain't broke don't fix it.

Thank You

Don Hardesty
Evansville

Time stamp 10/14/2011 11:23:42 AM

Commentor Name John Thomas

Commentor County 30

Commentor State IN

Commentor City New Palestine

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I wish to join my voice with that of the FLW Outdoors and The Bass Federation in opposing this regulation. Bass tournaments, especially on the Ohio Rivers and it tributaries, not only are vital recreation for thousands of anglers, but also are a significant source of income for the tournament hosting communities. This legislation would virtually eliminate tournament fishing on these waters, and would harm the retail, food, and lodging industries of these communities. Please do not enact this proposal.

J.T.

Time stamp 10/14/2011 11:25:43 AM

Commentor Name Jody Blackburn

Commentor County 47

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Mitchell

Commentor Organization USA Bassin

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment My concern with regard to the White River would be that the overriding sentiment in the county (Lawrence) that the fish in the river are not safe to eat. Even though the State gives you consumption limits and the fish are relatively safe to eat, there is the feeling that you should not eat these fish. It is very prevalent. With that in mind I wonder exactly how this rule will help if no one is removing the smaller fish that you feel need to be removed. I do put tournament on during the summer on the White River and we had one of the best weight years this past year. I am certain this rule will hurt my participation next year. I am all for making the river a better fishery....I am not sure this is the rule that will get that job accomplish. At least as it pertains to the White River. Feel free to contact me at (812) 583-7537 Thank you.

Time stamp 10/14/2011 11:59:53 AM

Commentor Name melvin l mcneal

Commentor County 58

Commentor State OH

<p>Commentor City circleville Commentor Organization bfl /flw Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment Please, don't change a thing on BASS fishing. We look forward every year to fish in Ind. Please, think of the fishing leagues that come to your town every year..... and we do spend a lot of money. Time stamp 10/15/2011 01:21:04 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Tim Partin Commentor County Out of State Commentor State OH Commentor City Spingboro Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I live in southwest Ohio and fish for bass on the Ohio River, at Tanner's Creek, in Lawrenceburg Indiana. I am there approximately 20+ times per year. On every trip I eat at least one meal at Lawrenceburg restaurant and buy ice, snacks, and fuel at local establishments. I am for implementing measures to help increase the bass population, but I fail to see this proposal helping the fishery. I would rather see a 13 or 14 inch minimum size limit with no "slot limit". If the slot rule passes, I will not return to Lawrenceburg, nor visit any Indiana facility to fish. I will not buy an Indiana fishing license or boat launch permit. I will be forced to spend my time on the Ohio River in Ohio and visiting Ohio and Kentucky lakes. Thank-you for your time. Time stamp 10/15/2011 05:15:03 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Brad Burnette Commentor County 49 Commentor State IN Commentor City Indianapolis Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment This proposed rule will kill tournament fishing as very rarely do you ever see a smallmouth over 15 inches. Please do not allow this to pass Time stamp 10/15/2011 11:30:07 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Kenneth Swint Commentor County 41 Commentor State IN Commentor City Bargersville Commentor Organization Bass Tournament Fisherman Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment Very much opposed to the rule change for black bass in rivers and streams. Especially the Ohio River and its tributaries.</p>

#1. The average size black bass caught is less than 12 inches. Seldom is there bass larger than 15 inches caught.

I can understand the intent to help the bass population grow and this slot limit system worked in closed bodies of water that are pressured with anglers who remove and eat their catch.

The Ohio River is such a massive body of water a slot limit will have no effect other than shutting down Bass Fishing tournaments. There are few if any people who fish the Ohio River for bass that keep the fish and remove them from the body of water.

The premis that catching bass in this body of water hurts their size or mortality is severely flawed.

DNR needs to quit wasting time on these flawed rules and start finding a solution to the Asian Carp infestation in the Ohio River.

Time stamp 10/15/2011 12:54:24 PM

Commentor Name Brett Graham

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State KY

Commentor City Alexandria

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Changing the limit size on black bass on the Ohio river and its tributaries will severely hurt bass fishing in the area. there are several large tournaments on the ohio river that will likely not happen if the limit is changed. This will have a severely negative effect on local business suck as tackle stores, gas stations, and hotels.

this rule will not have much impact on the bass population due to the extremely low number of bass fishermen that fish the river in order to keep and eat bass. I can see the rule benefiting some small rivers and streams throughout the state, but not many. Efforts would be better spent on increasing the water quality. vegetation and habitat on the river. and plans to decrease the extreme flooding that regularly occurs during the spring.

Time stamp 10/16/2011 01:40:35 PM

Commentor Name Larry Paul

Commentor County 40

Commentor State IN

Commentor City North Vernon

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think this rule change is a bad idea. The current legal size limits on rivers and streams is fine. If you want to make fishing better maybe you could focus on individual bodies of water that you can catch 30 or more bass a day and not one single keeper. For example Hardy lake in Scott County

Time stamp 10/16/2011 06:41:54 PM

Commentor Name Robert Robinson

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Springboro

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Although a resident of Ohio, I am an avid fisherman and a State of Indiana fishing license holder for the past twenty or so years. I fish a great number of Bass Tournaments on the Ohio River and because of common water and the creeks that feed the Ohio River I purchase Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky fishing license. For some tournaments, I and many of my competitors choose to stay overnight at some of your Motels. As tournament Bass fisherman we spend a lot of money on gasoline, meals, snacks and tackle. As an angler I am greatfull anytime a State invest in the improvement of its fisheries especially the bass population. However the passing of this slot limit on bass accessable in and from the Ohio River would virtually eliminate Bass Fishing Tournaments in the Southern most section of your State. Thru out the spring and summer nearly every weekend their are Bass tournaments being held at lunch ramps all along the ramps of the Ohio River in Indiana. You need to concider the finical impact your proposed slot limit rule will have on your business owners. Know this, the passing of this bill if it pertains to the Ohio River and its tributairies will cause hundreds of fishermen like my self, to spend our time and money somewhere other than the State of Indiana.

Its been my experance that the fishing on the pool above the Markland Dam on the Ohio River for the past few years has been good. I believe its because of a stocking program the State of Kentucky has been running on that pool of water. Perhaps the slot limit is designed to protect the spawning size bass and that may be a good idea. The problem however with the bass spawn are unstable water and good spawning banks. The water levels are mostly uncontrollable dependant on the rainfall. The spawning grounds can be improved. Its my opinion that a good stocking program might be a better solution than a slot limit. I realize a stocking program requires the spending of money, but remember the slot limit you are considering will also have financial implications.

Time stamp 10/17/2011 05:16:54 AM

Commentor Name Jeremy Yackle

Commentor County 31

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Corydon

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This rule will severely harm the tournament fishing in Perry County. Those tourneys bring a significant amount of money to Perry County, and several businesses depend on them.

Time stamp 10/17/2011 07:58:47 AM

Commentor Name Mike Jones

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City okeana

Commentor Organization Cincy Bass Club

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I belong to the FLW and local club that considers the Indiana section of the Ohio River our home waters. The Ohio River habitat is not capable of 15" bass. No one keeps bass from the river. The conditions are not conducive for 15" bass and changes would eliminate tournaments and revinue genertated by tournament fisherman in Indiana. This slot limit should only be imposed on certain lakes cabable of producing numbers of 15" size bass not the entire state.

Thanks, Mike Jones

Time stamp 10/17/2011 09:05:12 AM

Commentor Name Rob Kelley

Commentor County 41

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Greenwood

Commentor Organization Indiana Bass Federation

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment This is stop any tournaments on the Ohio River and put a huge hurt on the towns these tournaments go to with lost revenue.

Exceptions need to be made for the Ohio River tributaries so tournament fishing can continue.

Regards,

Rob Kelley

Time stamp 10/17/2011 09:38:04 AM

Commentor Name Carl Waddington

Commentor County 79

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Lafayette

Commentor Organization Red Dirt Bait Co

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment While I respect the state for wanting to provide a healthy Bass population I don't completely agree with the proposed rule change when dealing with catch and release tournaments. Tournament anglers pay a lot of money for boats, trucks, baits, etc. and if this rule is implemented I can see some businesses in the area suffering when tournaments do not travel to these rivers. I also understand that it may be hard to determine if a boat is in a tournament or just fishing but let's be honest, most "meat" fishermen are not running bass boats and most larger tournament trails attach ribbons to the trolling motors. In my opinion the poacher is still going to take their chances so the only people this rule will affect are those that do their best to abide by them anyway. I think care needs to be taken when making this rule change. Adopt it but exempt tournament fishermen from the "only 2 over 15" rules or something.

Time stamp 10/17/2011 11:05:00 AM

Commentor Name Ron Eicher

Commentor County 10

Commentor State IN

Commentor City clarksville

Commentor Organization Businessman and Fisherman

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Please amended the rule to exclude 5 - 10 miles into each tributary off the Ohio River. This rule will affect to many People and Business as proposed and in return effect the states economy.

Thank You

Ron Eicher
 Businessman and Fisherman
Time stamp 10/17/2011 11:09:07 AM

Commentor Name Bobby Eads
Commentor County 47
Commentor State IN
Commentor City Springville
Commentor Organization Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail
Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment As a bass tournament organizer, I appreciate and applaud the IDNR efforts to improve Indiana's rivers and streams as legitimate bass fisheries.

While I agree that the proposed slot limit will improve the fisheries in the future, I can see a down side for the organizations and communities who depend on bass tournaments in the short term.

In my past experiences with tournaments on Indiana Rivers, both as an angler and as an organizer, if this proposed slot limit had been in effect, there would have been few or no legal fish brought in to the scales in most cases.

For those of us who make a living promoting and running these events, it's nearly impossible to attract anglers to an event when they have no confidence that they can catch legal fish. Our tournament numbers would dwindle to nothing impacting not only us, but the communities surrounding the launch facilities.

In addition, our Indiana Lakes are already under tremendous fishing pressure since we, in Indiana, have very little surface of water area per angler, and I can see the possibility of this getting worse if the new slot limit on rivers and streams is enacted.

With all of that said, I would still support the slot limit proposal if there was a waiver permit for tournament organizers.

Florida has a program that allows organizers to apply for a permit that waives their size limits with the agreement that; 1-all fish will be released, 2-the event organizers will keep records that assist the fisheries biologists, and 3-all participants in the event will carry a copy of the waiver with them throughout the tournament day.

I've organized several events in Florida and used this process with little or no difficulty. And the FL Fish and Wildlife officials receive valuable input from our data for future study.

I will be unable to attend the public forum on this topic as I will be out of town running an event. Please consider looking at the system Florida has in place. And if the slot limit proposal moves forward and becomes law, please consider offering a similar process for bass tournament organizers.

Thank you,

Bobby Eads

Sr. Vice President

Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail

www.fomntt.com

bobeads@fomntt.com

812-583-6389

Time stamp 10/17/2011 11:09:48 AM

Commentor Name Robert M Chapman
Commentor County Out of State

<p>Commentor State OH Commentor City Springfield Commentor Organization licensed fisherman Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment Why would you keep any black bass caught in an Indiana stream or creek? Return them all and have plenty to catch in years to come. Time stamp 10/17/2011 11:11:38 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Craig Jurgonski Commentor County 29 Commentor State IN Commentor City Fortville Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I am all for protecting fish in all of our waters in the state but do not think that this slot limit will change anything. Most of the people that are keeping fish from rivers like the White or St. Joe are going to keep them no matter what. I would rather see a 14" size limit put into place than a slot limit. Time stamp 10/17/2011 11:55:46 AM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Keith J Williams Commentor County Out of State Commentor State OH Commentor City Cincinnati Commentor Organization Cincy Bass Club Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment I would like to state my opposition to the proposed Black Bass rule for the rivers and streams of Indiana. I have purchased a non-resident fishing license for the past 30 years and am an avid tournament fisherman for smallmouth and all the black bass species. The rule would negatively affect the Ohio River tournament fishing and have a greater economic impact on the communities that thrive on sportfishing in and around Southeastern Indiana. Time stamp 10/17/2011 02:22:54 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Scott Lawrence Moon Commentor County 49 Commentor State IN Commentor City Beech Grove Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor Comment This will kill tournaments on the Ohio river if this applies within 5 miles as the crow flies of the river. Time stamp 10/17/2011 07:01:58 PM</p>
<p>Commentor Name Stephen Eickholtz Commentor County 10 Commentor State IN Commentor City charlestown Commentor Organization Commentor Email Email Commentor</p>

Comment I'm against this rule at this time because the over all size of the bass in the ohio river is not very large. I do not believe that this is because fisherman over harvest them. If you make this rule change most anglers will probably never catch a keeper bass in fishing tournaments or otherwise. I have fished the ohio river for many years and release nearly all the bass I catch there. At this time the system is not broken so why vote to change anything. With a slot change you will ruin a lot of good bass fishing in a vast body of water. You're wrong to make this change. Please vote no

Time stamp 10/17/2011 07:23:17 PM

Commentor Name Shane Metz

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Cincinnati

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment A 12" - 15" black bass slot limit would be devastating to bass fishing tournaments in Indiana. In a tuff economy I do not see how this will help any of the small communities that host tournaments. It seems this would be a big burden to these small communities. With tournaments being held on the Ohio River in Indiana it would prevent people from being able to keep legal fish in Kentucky or Ohio tributaries of the Ohio River and weighing them in at any tournament ran out of Indiana. This will also prevent tournament fisherman from fishing Indiana waters during tournaments ran out of Ohio or Kentucky, thus preventing money from being spent in these towns along the Ohio River for gas, food, lodging and everything else. With this extra burden placed on tournament directors I could see them moving their tournament sites to other ramps outside of your state so they would not have to deal with the fallout of this law.

Time stamp 10/18/2011 09:36:33 AM

Commentor Name Mark Shane

Commentor County 49

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Indianapolis

Commentor Organization Conservation

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment Commissioners;

I have been ask to address this new proposed rule change. I represent The Indiana Bass Federation & its members state wide. I am the IBF State Conservation Director. We, our members, are very concerned about the new proposed rule change as written. 1. The tremendous economic impact this will have on largely rural, small communities that rely on tournaments & tournament fishermen to support their businesses. This proposed change will kill the tournament trade completely. It is not uncommon for me to spend between \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 at one event, depending on the number of days involved. Each angler participating spends as much or more. Obviously the small 10 or 12 boat club tournaments don't spend any ware near that amount. The fees involved now have already had a large impact on bigger tournaments like the ones held in neighboring states. Facility or park daily entry fees, lake use fees, ramp fees just to name a few. Most of these fees we don't encounter in neighboring states. 2. This will only force a shift in use from rivers & streams to lakes & reservoirs that are already overcrowded with pleasure boats, to a dangerous levels. 3. Enforcement will prove to be very difficult to an already short staffed DNR. 4. Defining the areas designated "rivers & Streams" as well as tributaries and

embayment's will be a logistics nightmare. As written, it appears that rivers like the Patoka river or Painters Creek at Patoka lake just as an example. Many anglers travel up these rivers to fish. As written it appears that these bodies of water would also be effected. Where dose the creek or river stop & the lake begin? Even if it were possible to somehow define the start of one & the end of the other it is likely that an angler will fish both. Fish caught on the lake, placed in the live well, then the boat travel into a river or stream or vice-versa. As this rule change pertains to northern rivers like the St James or the Ohio River it is nothing short of catastrophe to those that fish it & those that make their living supporting the sport.

In closing I'm very confused by the need for this rule at all. Tournament fishermen practice CATCH & RELEASE! Only anglers loading their boats with anything they catch, using live bait, for fun or food should be scrutinized but rarely are. Tournament fishermen as a whole try to protect their fish & release them alive, it is their best entrust. I have witnessed those fishing an impoundment that has a slot discarding fish in the slot as if they were trash fish. That pretty much defeats the purpose.

Please consider revamping this change or dropping it all together.

Thank You;

Mark Shane

Indiana Bass Federation
State Conservation Director
markshane@sbcglobal.net
(317) 293-0332

Time stamp 10/18/2011 11:51:28 AM

Commentor Name Gene Hopkins

Commentor County 3

Commentor State IN

Commentor City Columbus

Commentor Organization Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment The Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable supports the Proposed Rule #11-358 which amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 to replace the 12 inches limit for black bass taken from rivers and streams with a 12 inches to 15 inches slot limit, with the following request for revision –

“The rule change proposal should be revised to exclude the Ohio River in its entirety ,and exclude tributaries which flow into the Ohio for a length of not less than 5 miles upstream from the confluence of that tributary and the Ohio River.”

The ISR also support the possession limit of 5 black bass in a day, with not more than two being over 15 inches.

We believe that this rule change, along with the above recommended amendment, will allow a strong consensus of support from anglers in search of improved fishing opportunities and a healthier bass population in Indiana..

We appreciate the effort of the IDNR Fisheries staff in their help toward reaching this recommendation.

Time stamp 10/18/2011 02:54:01 PM

Commentor Name Jim Poe

Commentor County Out of State

Commentor State OH

Commentor City Englewood

Commentor Organization

Commentor Email [Email Commentor](#)

Comment I think this would greatly improve the fishing. Bass tournaments won't like the idea but they kill off too many fish in their livewells. This idea is good for all the non-tournament fishermen and would be a good thing for most fish and fishermen.

Time stamp 10/20/2011 07:36:46 AM

Records 1-147 of 147

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hards [mailto:khards@indiana.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:13 AM
To: Jennifer Kane
Subject: Pw: Change to IN State Fishing Regulations

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Joe B Klein [mailto:jbklein@indiana.gov]
To: Jennifer Kane [mailto:jfkaner@indiana.gov]
Sent: Sat, January 8, 2011 1:25:00 PM
Subject: Change to IN State Fishing Regulations

Kevin, I'm sending this e-mail to show my support for the new proposed State of Indiana regulation that allows no more than two fish over "10" as part of the daily bag limit.

Joseph B. Klein

Joseph B. Klein
QM17/SAZ Lead Auditor
T: 509-901-2000, A: 509-005, A: 509-110 & A: 509-020
Phone: 317-949-1821
Fax: 317-949-1821 cell phone first
Cell: 317-371-5225
e-mail: jklein@sbabodol.net
2915 River Bay Ct.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hards [mailto:khards@indiana.gov]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:12 AM
To: Jennifer Kane
Subject: Pw: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: James Gannon [mailto:jgannon@depaui.edu]
To: Jennifer Kane [mailto:jfkaner@indiana.gov]
Sent: Sat, January 8, 2011 5:08:37 AM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Kevin,

I strongly support the IDNR adoption of limiting the daily angler catch of smallmouth bass to two fish larger than 15 inches in total length. There are few Indiana rivers which currently support healthy populations of smallmouth bass and it is crucially important to maintain their quality. It is equally important to recognize that the loss of smallmouth bass populations from streams which formerly supported healthy populations is related to deteriorated water and physical quality in those streams.

J. R. Gannon, Professor Emeritus of Zoology, DePaul University, Greenacres, Indiana

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hurdle [mailto:khurdle@whiteriverindy.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:12 AM
To: mcrules
Subject: FW: Support of Fishing Regs

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "mcrules@whiteriverindy.com" <mcrules@whiteriverindy.com>
To: khurdle@whiteriverindy.com
Sent: Fri, January 7, 2011 8:20:22 PM
Subject: Support of Fishing Regs

Dear Kevin and Friend of the White River,

I just want to express my support of fishing regulations that limit the taking of 2 or less smallmouth bass of 15 inches or larger from any Indiana waters including the White River. I am a catch and release fly fisherman and it is essential that we release mature black bass back into the streams and lakes to protect their natural reproductive cycle. Protecting the larger fish insures that the fishery will remain strong for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

MI Penner

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hurdle [mailto:khurdle@whiteriverindy.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:11 AM
To: mcrules
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Jeff B <jb@whiteriverindy.com>
To: khurdle@whiteriverindy.com
Sent: Fri, January 7, 2011 11:30:40 AM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

As one who loves to fish but practices catch and release, I welcome any changes that would help our fish population.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bolla
Indianapolis, IN
46237

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Harida [Kfriends@nter.net@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:10 AM
 To: friends@nter.net
 Subject: Fw: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
 From: "Bax, Kristen Elizabeth" <kristen@baxinc.com>
 To: "Kris@baxinc.com" <kristen@baxinc.com>
 Sent: Fri, January 7, 2011 9:39:43 AM
 Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the new regulations of Indiana that will create an improved fishery in rivers and streams. Please keep me informed of progress and any ways that I can be of assistance to the Friends of White River. Thank you and have a great day!

Kristen Bax
 Kristen Bax

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Harida [Kfriends@nter.net@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:10 AM
 To: friends@nter.net
 Subject: Fw: Support a healthy White River

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
 From: Tim Michael <tim@hills-hill.com>
 To: Kfriends@nter.net
 Sent: Fri, January 7, 2011 9:23:45 AM
 Subject: Re: Support a healthy White River

I support the new daily bag limit. tim michael
 Confidentiality Notice: This E-Mail transmission may contain confidential or legally privileged information that is intended only for the individual or entity named in the E-Mail address. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or reliance upon the contents of this E-Mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this E-Mail transmission in error, please reply to the sender, so arrangements can be made for proper delivery, and then delete the message from your system. Thank you.

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie (khardie@twinkl.co.uk)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:09 AM
To: [mrculdes](#)
Subject: Pw: I support the proposed change in email content

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Helen Carroll <hcarroll@imfor.net>
To: friends@hthang.coalition.com
Sent: Fri, January 7, 2011 8:19:14 AM
Subject: I support the proposed change in s

support the change in regulations to allow only two smallmouth over 15" to be taken per day.

Steven Carroll
262-0078

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie (khardie@whiteo.com)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:08 AM
To: [arculus](#)
Subject: We I support the proposed change in small-mouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Iain Mulholland" <imulh@bt.com>
To: friends@friendsforchina.org
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 7:07:48 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Jeff & Alicia Rasey support the proposed regulation.
5422 Ridgeway Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Grace Life Insurance
 11* Buys \$50,000 Life Insurance. Adults or Children. No Medical Exam.
<http://www.lifepartners.aig.com/CL31414428592918webb.com?bys>

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hurdle [kvhurdle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:58 AM
To: mrculdas
Subject: FW: Support new regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: CHRISTINE N CARLSON <ccarlson@bchhhsd.net>
To: Hurdle, Kevin [kvhurdle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 4:03:25 PM
Subject: Support new regulations

Dear Kevin - Just a quick note to let you know that I wholeheartedly support the proposed new set of regulations limiting the fish bag limit to no more than two fish over 15 inches for all rivers and streams in Indiana.

Thank you and the rest of POWR for all you do to protect and improve our beautiful river.

Best,

Chris

Christine N. Carlson
317-377-5413

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined. ...Henry David Thoreau

13

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hurdle [kvhurdle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:07 AM
To: mrculdas
Subject: FW: Support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Allan Fish <afish@bchhhsd.net>
To: kvhurdle@yahoo.com
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 4:06:45 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

I support the limit proposed by the Natural Resource Advisory Council:

The new regulation should specify that smallmouth bass between 12" and 15" could NOT be kept. In addition only 2 bass over 15" could be included in the daily bag limit.

Allan L. Fish
614 Bruckwood Way
Greenwood, IN

—
Allan Fish
Greenwood, IN
afish@bchhhsd.net

14

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie (khardie@verizon.net)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:07 AM
To: nrcusa
Subject: New Bass Fishing Regulations

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Tom Jastran <tjastran@earthlink.net>
To: jtrastan@earthlink.net
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 3:55:34 PM
Subject: New Bass Fishing Regulations

I strongly support adoption of the new proposed regulations to allow no more than two fish greater than 15 inches in length as part of the daily bag limit. This will help grow the breeding stock and improve the fishery for years to come.

Tom Jastran

Thomas L. Jastran, B. Ph.
8039 River Bay Drive West
Indianapolis, IN 46240-2987
Phone: 317.594.1501
Email: tjastran@earthlink.net

15

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie (khardie@verizon.net)
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:06 AM
To: nrcusa
Subject: Support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Chris Stroheck <stroheck@earthlink.net>
To: khardie@verizon.net
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 3:30:54 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Kevin,

Even as a fisherman, I support this measure! Please count me "in".

Otherwise, I hope you enjoyed the holidays.

Since we last talked (this past Spring), I have continued to practice law and work on distributed renewable energy opportunities through IDS.

But over the last year, I have also begun to use my law degree toward sustainable construction and energy issues. Given my resources and network of associates, I can also offer legal services in a variety of other areas, but more typically I have concentrated in the following:

- Real estate contracts and disputes of all types
- Business and construction contracts and disputes
- Zoning and development applications and issues
- Loan modification and foreclosure defense
- Payment disputes and collections
- Credit card and tax settlements
- Renewable energy and utility issues

I would also be interested in helping on any environmental issues regarding Indiana rivers or otherwise.

So if I could be of service to you, a business associate, family member or friend, I would be grateful for the opportunity. Thanks for keeping me in mind and Happy New Year!

Chris



16

S.C. STRINEBECK, ATTORNEY AT LAW
819 EAST 64TH STREET, 4415
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46220-1871
OFFICE: (317) 382-0191
FAX: (317) 290-3833
sstrinebeck@comcast.net
<http://vittles.goodle.com/vittlesstrinebecklaw/>

View my profile on
LinkedIn

This e-mail and any attachments (including information from the firm which is confidential and/or legally privileged). The information is intended only for the use of the individual(s) named in this e-mail. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or any other use of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me immediately.
DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY CIRCULAR 230
This Disclosure may be required by Circular 230 issued by the Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, if this e-mail, or any attachments, contains information that is confidential or otherwise privileged. Such information should not be disclosed to any third party without the express written consent of the sender. This e-mail and any attachments (including any attachments hereto) may not be used or referred to in promoting, marketing or recommending a transaction or arrangement to another party. Further information concerning this disclosure, and the reasons for such disclosure, may be obtained upon request from the author of this e-mail. Thank you.

13

S.C. STRINEBECK, ATTORNEY AT LAW
819 EAST 64TH STREET, 4415
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46220-1871
OFFICE: (317) 382-0191
FAX: (317) 290-3833
sstrinebeck@comcast.net

<http://vittles.goodle.com/vittlesstrinebecklaw/>

View my profile on
LinkedIn

This e-mail and any attachments (including information from the firm which is confidential and/or legally privileged). The information is intended only for the use of the individual(s) named in this e-mail. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or any other use of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me immediately.
DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY CIRCULAR 230
This Disclosure may be required by Circular 230 issued by the Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, if this e-mail, or any attachments, contains information that is confidential or otherwise privileged. Such information should not be disclosed to any third party without the express written consent of the sender. This e-mail and any attachments (including any attachments hereto) may not be used or referred to in promoting, marketing or recommending a transaction or arrangement to another party. Further information concerning this disclosure, and the reasons for such disclosure, may be obtained upon request from the author of this e-mail. Thank you.

14

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardle [khardle@indianapolis.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:05 AM
To: indiana
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "jfkennedy@aol.com" <jfkennedy@aol.com>
To: [khardle@indiana.com]
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 3:18:38 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Kevin,
Thanks for the prompt and yes, I do support the proposal.
Deroven Miller

18

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardle [khardle@indiana.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:05 AM
To: indiana
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: tom mcclain <tom@indiana.com>
To: [khardle@indiana.com]
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 3:17:47 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Yes, I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations.
... / tom mcclain

Cartoon Illustrator & web designer focused on rivers, trails, children and culture
(317) 414-7784 / (317) 251-4592 / indianapolis
www.stillwater.com / indianapolis.com

19

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [khardie@hennepin.org]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:04 AM
To: jkane@hennepin.org
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Tammy Stevens <stevens@hennepin.org>
To: jkane@hennepin.org
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 3:10:24 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Hi Kevin -

Just a note to say that I'm in full support of the adoption of new regulations that would add additional protection for the recovery of White River, and all of Indiana's challenged waterways. Indiana is blessed with some amazing waterways that we should be proud of, and that could provide excellent opportunities for Hoosiers to experience the natural world. Instead, our waterways have been labeled lethal and hidden, and it's time we improved the situation with enforced regulations.

Thanks for all of your efforts!

Sincerely,

Tammy Stevens
Indianapolis, IN

26

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [khardie@hennepin.org]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:09 AM
To: jkane@hennepin.org
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Neal Bennett <nbennett@hennepin.org>
To: jkane@hennepin.org
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:56:24 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Dear Mr. Hardie-

I am in support of additional fishery improvements. Please include my name with any correspondence that is needed to pass these new regulations.
Thank you.

-Neal Bennett

Neal Bennett
Environmental Scientist
Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc.
8450 Westfield Blvd., Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46240
(317) 713-4615
www.bfseu.com

27

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Harde [kharde@winnetv.net@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:03 AM
 To: mcrules
 Subject: Pw: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
 From: Glenn Pratt <gpratt@usa.com>
 To: kharde@winnetv.net@yahoo.com
 Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:40:15 PM
 Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Harde [kharde@winnetv.net@yahoo.com]
 Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:03 AM
 To: mcrules
 Subject: Pw: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
 From: Jeff Conrad <jconrad@indy.rr.com>
 To: kharde@winnetv.net@yahoo.com
 Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:38:13 PM
 Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Hi Kevin:

I support this regulation change and have noted my approval with the Sportsman's Roundtable members as well. Now, if we could just get drainage and setback regulations, CAFC run-off regulations, and CSO systems in Anderson and Elwood replaced with modern sewerage handling technology, we would be a lot closer to letting the upper White become what it once was.

Holler if you have time for a boat trip next season. I usually start fishing around April 1, water allowing.

I don't know if you would consider sending another email to the membership letting them know about the Indiana On The Fly show this Saturday, January 8th from 9-3 at the State Fairgrounds Aghart Building.

Since Pratt didn't have the level of sponsorship she has had in the past, she didn't have the money for mass marketing of the show. She is relying on grassroots efforts.

Regards, Jeff

Jeff Conrad
 317 • 848 • 7873 - office
 317 • 258 • 8508 - cell
 jconrad@indy.rr.com

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [khardie@hennepin.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:00 AM
To: nrcrds
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations
Attachments: HNS-2010025-0001.jpg

Please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Elephant, Bob" <bob.elephant@westlakesports.com>
To: bhardie@hennepin.com
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:37:21 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Kevin
I wish it was 20' like some stretches of the Mississippi River in Minnesota. See attached from my trip last fall. I have been heavily involved in Greater Clean Cores and wish I had time to devote to France. I had a great time for the year I was involved.

Robert Elephant
Westlakesports, LLC
Franklin, Minnesota
(317) 263-2822 Work
(317) 264-7718 Fax
bob.elephant@westlakesports.com
www.westlakesports.com

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This e-mail message and any attachments to it are intended only for the named recipient(s) and may contain highly privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not one of the intended recipient(s), please do not disclose or forward this e-mail message and immediately delete it from your computer.

24

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [khardie@hennepin.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 10:00 AM
To: nrcrds
Subject: FW: bag limit

Please see e-mail below from another river group, White River Watchers

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: sheryl myers <shmyers113@aatt.net>
To: jhardie@hennepin.com
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:35:20 PM
Subject: bag limit

Hello Kevin -

We think that a limit no more than two fish 15 inches or over per day is a very reasonable limit and should be enforced throughout the state of Indiana. It doesn't make sense to allow our breeding stock to be over-fished. On behalf of the White River Watchers of Madison County, we urge the state to put this limit in place.

Thank you,

Sheryl Myers
White River Watchers of Madison County

25

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [mailto:khardenw@verizon.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 6:09 AM
To: recruits
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see member e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Timon <timon@smallmouth.com>
To: "khardenw@verizon.com" <khardenw@verizon.com>
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:34:32 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [mailto:khardenw@verizon.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 8:55 AM
To: recruits
Subject: FW: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

please see e-mail below

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Anna McIntosh <amcintosh@smallmouth.com>
To: khardenw@verizon.com
Sent: Thu, January 6, 2011 2:34:17 PM
Subject: I support the proposed change in smallmouth regulations

I agree that we need to do all that we can to protect our natural wildlife. Especially with the changes that are going on in the environment today. I support the change for the smallmouth regulations.

Kane, Jennifer

From: Kevin Hardie [kardsolw@uiowa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 9:57 AM
To: nrovalas
Subject: support for rules change regarding small-mouth bass

Per conversation with staff, Friends of the White River is forwarding e-mails supporting the "slot size" regulation. We also plan to ask to testify at the meeting on Tuesday.

Thanks, Kevin Hardie

EXHIBIT C

NOTE: The revisions to the published rule language are reflected by document highlights.

TITLE 312 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Final Rule

LSA Document #11-358(F)

DIGEST

Amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 to replace the minimum size limit of 12 inches for black bass taken from rivers or streams with a statewide requirement, currently in place only in the Blue River in Crawford, Harrison, and Washington counties, that black bass taken from rivers and streams must be less than 12 inches long or greater than 15 inches long, with not more than two black bass being greater than 15 inches long. Effective 30 days after filing with the Publisher.

312 IAC 9-7-6

SECTION 1. 312 IAC 9-7-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-6 Black bass

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 6. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual may take or possess not more than five (5) black bass in aggregate per day.

(b) An individual may take or possess not more than three (3) black bass from Lake Michigan in aggregate per day. An individual must not possess more than three (3) black bass in aggregate while fishing in or on Lake Michigan.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual must not take or possess a black bass except: ~~as follows:~~

(1) ~~the black bass is twelve (12) inches if taken from rivers or streams in Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ohio and Dearborn Counties the black bass must be at least twelve (12) inches long;~~

(2) ~~if taken from rivers or streams, except as stated in subdivision (c)(1), the black bass must be greater than fifteen (15) inches long or less than twelve (12) inches long, with not more than two (2) being greater than fifteen (15) inches; or~~

(3) ~~the black bass is fourteen (14) inches if taken from lakes or reservoirs (including Lake Michigan), the black bass must be at least fourteen (14) inches long.~~

(d) An individual may take or possess largemouth bass of any length in the following lakes:

- (1) Brownstown Pit in Jackson County.
- (2) Burdette Park Lakes in Vanderburgh County.
- (3) Chandler Town Lake in Warrick County.
- (4) Cypress Lake in Jackson County.
- (5) Deming Park Lakes in Vigo County.
- (6) Garvin Park Lake in Vanderburgh County.
- (7) Glen Miller Pond in Wayne County.
- (8) Hayswood Lake in Harrison County.
- (9) Henry County Memorial Park Lake in Henry County.
- (10) Hovey Lake in Posey County.
- (11) Krannert Lake in Marion County.
- (12) Lake Sullivan in Marion County.
- (13) Ruster Lake in Marion County.
- (14) Schnebelt Pond in Dearborn County.

(e) An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass unless the largemouth bass is less than twelve (12) inches long or more than fifteen (15) inches long from the following designated lakes:

- (1) Buffalo Trace Lake in Harrison County.
- (2) Celina Lake in Perry County.
- (3) Indian Lake in Perry County.
- (4) Saddle Lake in Perry County.
- (5) Scales Lake in Warrick County.
- (6) Shakamak State Park Lakes in Clay County, Greene County, and Sullivan County.
- (7) Tipsaw Lake in Perry County.
- (8) Ferdinand State Forest Lake in Dubois County.
- (9) Montgomery City Park Lake in Daviess County.

(f) An individual may take or possess not more than one (1) largemouth bass from Turtle Creek Reservoir in Sullivan County. An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Turtle Creek Reservoir unless the largemouth bass is at least twenty (20) inches long.

(g) An individual may take or possess not more than five (5) largemouth bass in aggregate per day from Patoka Lake in Orange, Crawford, and Dubois counties or Dogwood Lake in Daviess County. An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Patoka Lake or Dogwood Lake unless the largemouth bass is at least fifteen (15) inches long.

(h) An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Harden Lake in Parke County unless the largemouth bass is at least sixteen (16) inches long.

(i) An individual must not take or possess more than two (2) largemouth bass per day, and an individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass unless the largemouth bass is at least eighteen (18) inches long from the following designated waters:

- (1) Tri-County State Fish and Wildlife Area.

- (2) Robinson Lake in Whitley County and Kosciusko County.
- (3) Ball Lake in Steuben County.
- (4) Gibson Lake in Gibson County.
- (5) Loon Pit at Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County.
- (6) Bluegrass Pit at Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County.
- (7) J. C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area in Newton County.

(j) An individual must not take or possess more than five (5) black bass in aggregate per day from the Blue River located in Crawford ~~and Harrison, and Washington~~ counties. Each black bass taken from the Blue River in Crawford ~~and Harrison, and Washington~~ counties must be less than twelve (12) inches long or more than fifteen (15) inches long but not more than two (2) per day can be taken that are longer than fifteen (15) inches.

(k) An individual may take or possess not more than one (1) black bass from Sugar Creek located in Parke, Montgomery, Boone, Clinton, and Tipton counties per day and the black bass must be at least twenty (20) inches long.

(l) If this section prohibits an individual from taking or possessing a black bass from a specified water of the state, an individual must not possess a black bass of the prohibited class on or adjacent to the specified water of the state. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-6; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2718; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3721; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1539; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 549; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA*)

EXHIBIT D

NOTE: The revisions to the published rule language are reflected by document highlights.

TITLE 312 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Final Rule

LSA Document #11-358(F)

DIGEST

Amends 312 IAC 9-7-6 to replace the minimum size limit of 12 inches for black bass taken from rivers or streams with a statewide requirement, currently in place only in the Blue River in Crawford, Harrison, and Washington counties, that black bass taken from rivers and streams must be less than 12 inches long or greater than 15 inches long, with not more than two black bass being greater than 15 inches long. Effective 30 days after filing with the Publisher.

312 IAC 9-7-6

SECTION 1. 312 IAC 9-7-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

312 IAC 9-7-6 Black bass

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 6. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual may take or possess not more than five (5) black bass in aggregate per day.

(b) An individual may take or possess not more than three (3) black bass from Lake Michigan in aggregate per day. An individual must not possess more than three (3) black bass in aggregate while fishing in or on Lake Michigan.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual must not take or possess a black bass except: ~~as follows:~~

(1) the black bass is twelve (12) inches if taken from rivers or streams **having a junction with the Ohio River that have been declared navigable by the “Roster of Indiana Waterways Declared Navigable or Nonnavigable”, Information Bulletin 3, (Third Amendment), published by the Legislative Services Agency at DIN 20080611-IR-312080426NRA, (June 11, 2008), the black bass must be at least twelve (12) inches long;**

(2) if taken from rivers or streams, except as stated in subdivision (c)(1), the black bass must be greater than fifteen (15) inches long or less than twelve (12) inches long, with not more than two (2) being greater than fifteen (15) inches; or

(3) the black bass is fourteen (14) inches if taken from lakes or reservoirs (including Lake Michigan), the black bass must be at least fourteen (14) inches long.

(d) An individual may take or possess largemouth bass of any length in the following lakes:

- (1) Brownstown Pit in Jackson County.
- (2) Burdette Park Lakes in Vanderburgh County.
- (3) Chandler Town Lake in Warrick County.
- (4) Cypress Lake in Jackson County.
- (5) Deming Park Lakes in Vigo County.
- (6) Garvin Park Lake in Vanderburgh County.
- (7) Glen Miller Pond in Wayne County.
- (8) Hayswood Lake in Harrison County.
- (9) Henry County Memorial Park Lake in Henry County.
- (10) Hovey Lake in Posey County.
- (11) Krannert Lake in Marion County.
- (12) Lake Sullivan in Marion County.
- (13) Ruster Lake in Marion County.
- (14) Schnebelt Pond in Dearborn County.

(e) An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass unless the largemouth bass is less than twelve (12) inches long or more than fifteen (15) inches long from the following designated lakes:

- (1) Buffalo Trace Lake in Harrison County.
- (2) Celina Lake in Perry County.
- (3) Indian Lake in Perry County.
- (4) Saddle Lake in Perry County.
- (5) Scales Lake in Warrick County.
- (6) Shakamak State Park Lakes in Clay County, Greene County, and Sullivan County.
- (7) Tipsaw Lake in Perry County.
- (8) Ferdinand State Forest Lake in Dubois County.
- (9) Montgomery City Park Lake in Daviess County.

(f) An individual may take or possess not more than one (1) largemouth bass from Turtle Creek Reservoir in Sullivan County. An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Turtle Creek Reservoir unless the largemouth bass is at least twenty (20) inches long.

(g) An individual may take or possess not more than five (5) largemouth bass in aggregate per day from Patoka Lake in Orange, Crawford, and Dubois counties or Dogwood Lake in Daviess County. An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Patoka Lake or Dogwood Lake unless the largemouth bass is at least fifteen (15) inches long.

(h) An individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass from Harden Lake in Parke County unless the largemouth bass is at least sixteen (16) inches long.

(i) An individual must not take or possess more than two (2) largemouth bass per day, and an individual must not take or possess a largemouth bass unless the largemouth bass is at least eighteen (18) inches long from the following designated waters:

- (1) Tri-County State Fish and Wildlife Area.
- (2) Robinson Lake in Whitley County and Kosciusko County.
- (3) Ball Lake in Steuben County.
- (4) Gibson Lake in Gibson County.
- (5) Loon Pit at Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County.
- (6) Bluegrass Pit at Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County.
- (7) J. C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area in Newton County.

(j) An individual must not take or possess more than five (5) black bass in aggregate per day from the Blue River located in Crawford ~~and~~ Harrison, ~~and~~ Washington counties. Each black bass taken from the Blue River in Crawford ~~and~~ Harrison, ~~and~~ Washington counties must be less than twelve (12) inches long or more than fifteen (15) inches long but not more than two (2) per day can be taken that are longer than fifteen (15) inches.

(k) An individual may take or possess not more than one (1) black bass from Sugar Creek located in Parke, Montgomery, Boone, Clinton, and Tipton counties per day and the black bass must be at least twenty (20) inches long.

(l) If this section prohibits an individual from taking or possessing a black bass from a specified water of the state, an individual must not possess a black bass of the prohibited class on or adjacent to the specified water of the state. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-6; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2718; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3721; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1539; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Sep 23, 2004, 3:00 p.m.: 28 IR 549; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA*)